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Near East/South Asia Report

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26 JUNE 1986

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BANGLADESH

SPECIAL ENVOY FROM LIBYA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr Abdul Ati Librahim-al-Obedi, special envoy to the Libyan leader Colonel Muammer-Gaddafi on Tuesday said that his country was satisfied with Bangladesh's support to Libya against the recent aggression.

Mr Obedi who led a mission to Dhaka with a special message from the Libyan leader for President H. M. ERshad said Libya had a good brotherly relations with Bangladesh and the people and the government of Libya strongly appreciated Dhaka's stand on the recent air attack on Libya. "We are grateful for the support we got from the government and the people of Bangladesh," he added.

Speaking at a Press conference at the office of JANA, the Libyan news agency at Purana Paltan of his two-day official visit to Bangladesh, Mr Obedi said Libya and its leader brother Gaddafi emerged more strong following the recent crisis when all the Muslim countries members of the Non-Aligned Movement, freedom loving people all over the world expressed their support to Libya. He added that Libya was satisfied with the support it got from the Soviet Union and China during its national crisis.

He said that both Italy and Austria ruled out the Libyan involvement in the terrorist activities in Rome and Vienna.

He pleaded to change the UN Charter restricting the use of veto in the Security Council. He said that Libya was contact with the OIC Arab League Non-Aligned Movement, and other forums to amend the UN Charter.

He said that Libya was determined to defend its territory with the support from the Muslim countries. Soviet Union, China and all freedom loving people of the world.

Mr Obedi said that he had visited Pakistan before coming to Dhaka and he would preceed to China from here. He observed that China could maintain a balance in the super power rivalry and promote the cause of world peace and security.

In reply to a question Mr Obedi hoped that Libya would get meaningful and positive support from all Arab countries including Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states in case of any aggression on Libya in future.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1804

BANGLADESH

HASINA MAKES STATEMENT AFTER CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Conditions for Parliament Session

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 May 86 p 1

[Text] Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina in a statement on Sunday at the end of the party's Central Committee meeting set four conditions for creating conducive atmosphere for holding Parliament session. The conditions are: judicial enquiry into terrorism during polls and vote dacoity, trial of killings during elections, re-election in the constituencies where voters could not cast their votes due to terrorism, to take quick appropriate and effective steps to remove the irregularities during polls.

She said that in the present situation, President Ershad has no right to stay in power. Despite widespread terrorism people of the country has expressed through ballot their verdict against Martial Law rule, she sent Government to cling to power after so much of killing, oppression and vote dacoity would be disastrous Awami League chief said.

Sheikh Hasina further said that the free will of the people is not allowed to be reflected now armed forces administration and government power were used as instruments for victory. Despite commitment for free and fair election the conspiracy to frustrate the results have surprised the countrymen.

The meeting was adjourned till noon today (Monday). Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting held at party central office. Awami League chief called upon the people to come forward to achieve the demands and to observe six-hour hartal from 6 a.m. on May 14 throughout the country. She said that the Election Commission [word indistinct] would be gheraoed on May [date indistinct] to strengthen the movement to protest vote dacoity and rigging in polls.

Further Details Reported

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 May 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina has demanded repolling in those constituencies where the voters could not exercise their franchise in the face of what she

called "terror" and a judicial inquiry into the "irregularities done in Wednesday's election."

In a statement issued at the end of an emergency meeting of the party central executive council yesterday, Sheikh Hasina also demanded immediate and effective steps against all irregularities committed in the election with a view to creating a congenial atmosphere for the parliament session.

The Awami League Chief said, the people resisted holding of an election under a blueprint because they wanted a free and fair poll. But the Government tried to foil the election results through what she called terror and ballot robbery. She claimed the people spontaneously voted for the candidates of Awami League and the eight party alliance.

Sheikh Hasina said the people had clearly given their verdict against the military rule through ballot on May 7. She said the government of President Ershad has no right to stay in power now. She also warned that clinging to power after killing, repression and ballot robbery might have a grave consequence.

She called upon the people and all patriotic and democratic forces of the country to make success the programmes of country-wide half-day hartal on May 14 and encircling (gherao) Election Commission office on May 15 in protest against what she called ballot robbery and media coup.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1802

26 June 1986

BANGLADESH

AWAMI LEAGUE CHARGED WITH RIGGING POLLS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 May 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Prof. M.A. Matin, Secretary-General of the Jatiya Party, yesterday alleged that the Awami League had created "widespread violence" in the May 7 election and "rigged it massively" in their favour, reports RNS.

Addressing a press conference at the party central office at Dhaka yesterday afternoon Prof. Matin demanded re-election in 19 constituencies where according to him Awami League won, that "created a reign of terror" and even forced the polling agents out of the polling stations.

Giving examples of what he described as Awami League's "terror tactics" the Jatiya Party Secretary-General, who won from two constituencies in Sirajganj, said that in most of the places the Jatiya Party candidates could have won with bigger margin.

Giving details of the constituencies where "rioting" was done, he named a number of constituencies in Dinajpur, Jessore, Sirajganj, Pabna,

Satkhira, Tangail, Mymensingh, Krishnaganj, Moulvibazar, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gopalganj, Comilla and Chittagong and said the results in these places were made through the "terrorism" of Awami League.

Giving specific examples in Gopalganj 1 and 2 constituencies where the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina contested, Prof. Matin said that in both the seats his party candidates were leading with big margin in most of the polling stations but they could not win because of the widespread violence and intimidation.

In Comilla constituency he said, the Polling Officer was even forced out of the station and the opponents had sealed the ballot papers in favour of their candidates.

Prof. Matin who had to face a series of questions by the foreign and local journalists alleged that the method the Awami League had adopted in this election was not a new one. It is their old practice, he added. He also accused the opposition party of murdering his partymen in many places and refuted the charges of the opposition including Awami League that his partymen had unleashed a reign of terror to secure the victory of the Jatiya Party candidates.

Referring to the arrival of the three British nationals as well as their reported statements that the election was marred by violence and rigging mainly by the Jatiya Party, Prof. Matin said, the so-called people's commission for free election,

invited them to give a verdict which suits their own interest. It seems that the so-called 'people's commission' and the British nationals did not have any confidence in the Election Commission which was the only legalised body in the country to conduct election, he said.

Replying to a question as to when the Martial Law would be lifted, Prof. Matin said that he was not the person to reply to the question, but he later observed Martial Law should be lifted in a congenial manner for the democratic functioning. After being insisted on this point by the pressmen, the Jatiya Party leader said, 'lifting of Martial Law is not a must for functioning of the parliament'.

When asked to comment whether he wanted to install a Pakistan-type parliament where Martial Law worked side by side with the parliament, Prof. Matin said, "we are not in favour of taking any example of any other country".

When the newsmen sought his comments on the stoppage of announcement on unofficial results "by the Election Commission since Thursday evening, the Jatiya Party leader said that he cannot say anything as the Commission was the independent body to conduct the poll and announcing their results. You better ask the question to the Election Commission, he said.

The press conference was attended, among others, by Shah Muazzem Hussain and Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) Aminul Islam.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1800

BANGLADESH

ELECTION COMMITTEE ON BRITISH VISITORS' STATEMENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 May 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Election Commission said in Dhaka on Thursday, night categorically that the commission which is a constitutional body has the authority to conduct and supervise the election. No other body or person has any legal right to assume this authority, reports BSS.

"If anybody does so, it would be void and amount to encroaching upon the jurisdiction of the commission," the Election Commission said in a Press Note here late Thursday night.

Referring to the visit of three British nationals the Election Commission said, "The task they have undertaken tantamount to interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country."

The Press Note said: "Attention of the Election Commission has been drawn to a Press statement and reports made by Lord Ennals, Mr. Bradford Bravo and Mr. David Lay, who are currently visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of a committee which calls itself 'Gano Commission' formed purportedly for overseeing the Parliament election in Bangladesh.

The Election Commission states categorically that only the commission, which is a constitutional body has the authority to conduct and supervise the elections in Bangladesh. No other body/person has any legal right to assume this authority. If anybody does so, it would be void and amount to encroaching upon the jurisdiction of the commission.

The reports quoted above mention some incidents in some of the polling centres during poll time. Some unfortunate incidents took place during the election day resulting in some casualties and some destruction of properties. These incidents marred the peaceful atmosphere of a few polling centres and polls had to be stopped in these centres. Except the said centres, the election elsewhere throughout the country has been held quite peacefully.

The three foreign nationals mentioned above were invited to Bangladesh by a body set up by one of the 23 political parties, participating in the election. Naturally, one would question their neutrality as their movements and area of activity would normally be influenced by the said party.

The three foreign nationals visited, as per their own statement, only 33 polling centres apparently selected by the sponsors. This is too narrow a base to draw a sweeping conclusion as have been made. It is all the more absurd for casual observers, on a very visit to this country to pass any judgement over a countrywide election involving more than 47 million voters and more than 23 thousand polling stations.

The Election Commission has taken all possible steps to ensure free and fair election.

The official result is yet to be published. Even the announcement of unofficial result has not yet been completed. To pass a verdict about the fairness of the entire election at this stage is not only a very hasty generalisation but is also unfair. Moreover, the task they have undertaken tantamount to interference in the internal affairs of an independent sovereign country.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1801

BANGLADESH

SHORTFALL IN FOOD PRODUCTION ANTICIPATED

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 9 May 86 p 3

[Text]

The overall food situation in the country might worsen as production prospects of aus, boro and wheat have been showing discouraging signs in the mid-term official forecast.

Though the aman crop has far exceeded the target this year, the production of the other three crops is likely to decline substantially over the same period, reflecting a substantial shortfall in overall production.

The food ministry has revised the original target to 160.67 lakh tons as against 165 lakh tons. The shortfall is likely to be incurred owing to unfavorable weather conditions and the decline in the acreage under cultivation.

Aus production has declined by about 2 lakh tons to slightly over 28 lakh tons against its original target of 30 lakh tons, while the actual production of aman registered an increase of about 4 lakh tons.

Both boro and wheat have been estimated to fall by 4 lakh and two and a half lakh tons respectively.

In view of this anticipa-

ted shortfall in production, the overall deficit in the food budget will increase. The deficit has been estimated to increase by 3.40 lakh tons at the end of the year leading to a deficit of 21.10 lakh metric tons against the original estimates of 17.50 lakh tons.

Import requirement will be increased to maintain stability on the market and also to preserve a satisfactory stock position by the government. The total requirement of foodgrains is 166 lakh tons calculated on the basis of a 10 crore population with a per capita requirement of 16 ounces.

The opening stock of foodgrains in last July was 1.01 million tons which comprised of 0.47 million tons of rice and 0.54 million tons of wheat. Total off-take of foodgrains through the public food distribution system was estimated to be at 2 million tons at the initial period.

The actual distribution of foodgrains through the public distribution channels has been estimated at 1.75

million tons. The low off-take was mainly due to stable market prices which sometimes went below the government administered prices of foodgrains.

External procurement has been earmarked at 1.40 million tons. This will help in maintaining a year-end stock of one million tons.

According to government officials, aman production has increased due to fair weather conditions despite the fact that fertilizer off-take and sales of irrigation equipment have declined considerably. Soil moisture and delayed planting will, however, influence wheat production.

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CSO: 4600/1798

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA RECALLS ENVOY--Dr Ian S. Mitchell, High Commissioner of Australia in Bangladesh is leaving Dhaka on May 20 as his government summoned him back home. According to diplomatic sources, the Australian government called back Dr Mitchell ahead of naming his successor in Bangladesh following the withdrawal of Miss Merry Wickes, First Secretary, from its high commission in Dhaka about two months ago. It is learnt that the Australian government could not take the issue of immediate withdrawal of Miss Merry Wickes on the request of the Bangladesh government on March 20 from Dhaka very easily. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 13 May 86 p 1] /9274

ENVOY TO SINGAPORE--The government has decided to appoint Major General Moinul Hussain Choudhury, Bir Bikram, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Indonesia, as the country's High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore, reports BSS. Born on September 5, 1942, Major General Moinul Hussain Choudhury was commissioned in the Pakistan army in 1962 and graduated from Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul in 1964. He participated in the Bangladesh war of independence in 1971 and received the Bir Bikram award for gallantry. He held appointments as Commanding Officer, Military Secretary to the President of Bangladesh, Counsellor in Bangladesh High Commission in London, Adjutant-General of Bangladesh Army, he was Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Philippines till July 1982. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 11 May 86 p 3] /9274

KHALEDA ON AWAMI LEAGUE--Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairman, Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said on Monday that she did not see any possibility of simultaneous movement with Awami League on the basis of five-point demand in near future. Talking to a group of journalists at her party's central office the BNP chief said that it was not possible for those political parties to go for movement which took part in the May 7 polls. She alleged that they strengthened the hands of Martial Law rule in the country. Reiterating her party's stand on the question of participation in the elections Begum Zia said that it was anticipated that there would be massive rigging and widespread violence. She said according to international mass media the turn out was even less than 10 percent. "How this election can be a mandate," she asked. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 May 86 p 1] /9274

JAPANESE GRANT--Japan has agreed to extend to Bangladesh a grant assistance of yen 800 million (approx 1k 14 00 crore) for procurement of CI sheets for rehabilitation work of the flood and cyclone affected areas of the country under

an exchange of notes signed in Dhaka on Monday reports BSS. The External Resources Division on a press release said the entire amount of the grant will be utilised by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of relief and rehabilitation. The CI sheets to be imported under the grant will only be utilised for the quick implementation of the Universal Primary Education Programme of the country and for distribution among the flood and cyclone affected people. The grant will have to be utilised within March 31, 1987, unless the periods is extended by mutual agreement. The press release said Japan is at present the largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh on the basis of annual aid flow and with the signing of this exchange of notes the total grant assistance extended to Bangladesh since 1971 will amount to yen 107.85 billion approx Tk 1124.20 crore) in addition Japan extended loan assistance to Bangladesh to the tune of yen 291.505 billion (approx Tk 3098.53 crore) since 1974. The exchange of notes was signed by Mr M. Akhtar Ali, Joint Secretary, External Resources Division, Ministry of Finance and HE Mr Hoshiromo Tanaka, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh on behalf of their respective governments. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 May 86 pp 1, 8] /9274

MORE DETAINEES RELEASED--A good number of political leaders and workers of BNP, the 3-Party Alliance and the 6-Party Alliance who were arrested before the May 7 polls were released on Sunday. Those who were released included Messrs Mirza Colam Hafiz, Lt Col (Rtd) Mustafizur Rahman, Atahar, Rab Chowdhury and Abdul Aziz Ministry of BNP, A. F. M. Mahbubul Huq of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, and Qali Ahad of the 6-Party Alliance. Political sources hinted that some more arrested political workers and leaders were expected to be released today. Mr Abdul Barek Mia, Law Affairs Secretary of BNP, on Sunday urged the district level BNP legal-aid committees to extend all necessary assistance for ensuring, release, or bail of political workers and leaders who were arrested on political grounds. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 May 86 p 1] /9274

AMBASSADOR TO USSR--The Government has decided to appoint Mr M. R. Rezaul Karim, at present Additional Foreign Secretary as Ambassador to the Soviet Union, a Foreign Office Press release said on Sunday reports BSS. He is married and has three children. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 May 86 p 3] /9274

SCIENTISTS TO PRC--A six-member delegation of scientists left Dhaka on Sunday on an 11-day visit to China under the Bangladesh China cultural agreement, reports BSS. Led by Dr A. M. Sharafuddin Secretary Science and Technology Division the delegation will visit the major scientific research laboratories in Beijing Sang hai and Canton and identify the area of cooperation in the field of science and technology between the two countries. Other members of the delegation are Prof Abdul Matin Patwary Vice Chancellor Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Prof A. K. M. Nurul Islam Department of Botany Dhaka University Prof S. S. M. A. Khoras and Chairman Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Prof M. Shamsul Huq Assistant Scientific Advisor Science and Technology. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 May 86 p 8] /9274

CSO: 4600/1803

INDIA

ANALYST DISCUSSES PLANNED BORDER TALKS WITH PRC

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 May 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 10.

The next round of official level talks with China on the border dispute will be held in Beijing in September to complete the sector-wise discussions on what could be a mutually acceptable basis for a comprehensive settlement, according to the latest indications.

The Government of India is attaching considerable importance to it, since this could well be the final round in the current series of talks spread over the last five years, on the preliminaries relating both to principles and procedures that might logically lead to substantive negotiations at a political level at a later stage.

It is only after completion of these official level discussions—and a careful reassessment of the prospects for a negotiated settlement—that the question of a return visit to China by the External Affairs Minister of India would arise in the prevailing circumstances.

But the intention of the Government of India is to send Mr. B. R. Bhagat to Beijing later this year if the next round of official level talks conclude on a promising note. The visit could take place even if it is decided to continue this series for some more time, provided the Chinese are really keen on a serious dialogue to settle this problem.

Routine rebuttal: Those dealing with Sino-Indian relations in Delhi are not taking too dim a view of the latest Chinese reassertion of their claim to some 90,000 square kilometres of territory south of the McMahon Line, which came in the form of a routine rebuttal of the oft-repeated Indian contention that China was occupying about 28,000 square kilometres

of Indian territory in the Ladakh region. The Chinese delegation went through the motions of restating this position during the discussions on the eastern sector at the last round of talks in Delhi.

The real point that needs to be carefully reappraised before the next round of talks is whether the present Chinese leadership is still interested in an early settlement of the border dispute or whether it has begun reverting to the position that there is no great advantage in attempting to resolve this complex issue before it is ripe for a solution.

Biased broadcasts on Punjab: Due notice has no doubt been taken in Delhi of the fact that the Beijing Radio has lately been giving a rather biased version of the happenings in Punjab, more or less coinciding with the Pakistani projection of the Sikh problem. But India is not jumping to any abrupt conclusion that this is motivated by any new hostility towards India, let alone avowed support to secessionism.

As far as India is concerned, it continues to attach considerable importance to these official talks with China despite the lack of any progress during these protracted exchanges. This is quite evident from the Indian readiness to send the Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, as head of the delegation to the next round of talks in Beijing since he had been associated with the last two rounds, first as Ambassador to China and then as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs dealing with China.

Added importance: It will represent an elevation of the Indian representation, since these official talks have not been held at the Foreign Secretary level in the past.

/9317
CSO: 4600/1766

INDIA

SOVIET ENVOY SPEAKS AT INDO-SOVIET CULTURAL MEET

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 May 86 p 17

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 9: The Soviet ambassador to India, Mr. V. N. Rykov, yesterday made a fervent plea for nuclear disarmament.

Pointing out the widespread effect of the recent accident at the Russian nuclear power plant of Chernobyl, Mr. Rykov said that this served as a warning to all about the destructive power of nuclear weapons.

He said that this showed how cautious a nuclear power like the United States had to be. The present nuclear weapons arsenal could destroy our civilisation several times over. A war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union would be a catastrophe for all mankind. Hence, it was vital that all peace-loving people start an anti-war movement.

If all peace-loving nations presented a united front against those pushing the world towards a nuclear war, they would be able to overcome the nuclear threat.

Mr. Rykov was speaking at a public meeting organised by the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society on "India and the Soviet Union together for peace and security against imperialist terrorism."

Among the other speakers were Mr. T. N. Kaul, the Indian ambassador-designate to the Soviet Union, and Mr. Chandrajit Yadav.

Mr. Rykov said that power politics had no place in today's world. International relations had to be based on sovereignty, trust and the right to self-determination. It was in this context that the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachov, had on January 15 presented a proposal that would ensure the destruction of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

There was no other way to save mankind, he stressed.

He also attacked the state terrorism of the U.S. which had recently bombed Libya, killing innocent men, women and children. The pretext was that the Libyans were responsible for a bomb blast in a discotheque in Berlin, although there was no proof.

Mr. Kaul said the Indo-Soviet treaty was a concrete example of how two nations, despite having different social, political and economic system, could work together for peace and development. He added that Indo-Soviet friendship was a warning to others not to interfere in our internal affairs. Efforts to divide the two countries had failed earlier and would fail in the future also, he added.

He noted that the two countries occupied strategically important areas and had one-fourth of the world's population. They were a mighty force for peace and security in the world and no one could ignore this.

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CSO: 4600/1764

INDIA

EEC COMMISSION OFFICIAL MEETS DELHI NEWSMEN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 May 86 p 2

[Text]

India has told the visiting delegation of the Commission of European Communities that it would not like to discuss with them any bilateral arrangements about export of textiles and clothing till the multilateral negotiations were concluded in Geneva, reports UNI.

Stating this at a press conference in Delhi on Saturday, commission deputy director general Paul Luyten said "We appreciate India's stand" wanting phasing out of the multi-fibre agreement (MFA III) on the ground that it was restrictive and grossly discriminatory.

Mr Luyten said the commission believed that MFA might be extended for another four to five years and was keen to renew the community's bilateral arrangements with its trading partners.

He said they told senior Indian officials during their two day discussions that putting off ongoing bilateral arrangements, even for the present, might not be in the interest of India's textiles trade.

Mr Luyten said the Commission was keen on bilateral negotiations with its trading partners due to several factors, including the uncertain international economic situation.

The Commission, he said, was of the opinion that it would be inadvisable to set a final date for the phasing out of MFA. Secondly, on this basis the Commission could not make any formal commitment which it might not be able to respect later on.

He said the 12 member states of the European Community could not "play poker or use rhetoric. We want to be realistic and courageous and ensure improved market access to our trading partners."

Mr Luyten said the Commission also wanted the phasing out of MFA at the earliest. In this context, he pointed out the rigid American conditions which the European Community was "reluctant to accept." However, "We feel a solution will be found not to disrupt the textiles trade."

Mr Luyten said his delegation had come to India with a specific mandate to conduct the negotiations wherein the Community proposed introducing "new flexibilities" in bilateral arrangements.

He said the flexibilities included automatic switching of quotas from one textile product to another ranging from two per cent up to a maximum of 12 per cent in the fourth year.

He said barring a few exceptions, India had not been able to achieve its quotas at the Community or regional levels. India's total textile exports to the European Community were of the order of 710 ECU (European Community Unit). Overall, there has not been a steady pattern of growth of Indian textiles to the Community.

Mr Luyten said the Commission was willing to discuss with India later this year about the bilateral arrangement for textiles.

He said this might be a little late and there was a possibility of India's accessibility to the Community markets being curtailed as far as quotas went.

Replying to a question, Mr Luyten said the Commission was prepared to eliminate quotas which were being "systematically underutilised."

He said the restructuring of the textile industry in the EEC countries was currently under way, though somewhat uneven at present. However, there were some countries which could function without the MFA.

Mr Luyten said during their stay in the Capital, they held discussions with Commerce Secretary Prem Kumar, Textiles Secretary Shrimani Sharma and other officials.

INDIA

RAJIV CONTACTS MUGABE, EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 May 86 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 19

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, spoke to Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, today on the telephone assuring him of India's total solidarity with the people of the southern African frontline States which have become victims of aggression by the racist regime which carved out airborne commando attacks on them.

The South African raids on the capitals of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe were intended not merely to demonstrate its overwhelming military strength, but also to intimidate all the frontline States, including Angola, Mozambique and Tanzania, which have been attacked frequently and threatened with dire consequences.

Appalled and angered: An official spokesman said in a statement, "We are appalled and angered to learn of the unprovoked bombing by a commando group early this morning of the African National Congress (ANC) office in Harare carried out by the racist regime of South Africa, besides airborne attacks by commandos of the South African forces in Gaborone, capital of Botswana, using 15 helicopters and by fighter aircraft on a refugee camp near Lusaka. This aggression is in line with the

unabashed actions of this regime to destabilise neighbouring sovereign States on the flimsy pretext of forestalling attacks on it by the liberation movements, ANC and SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation). Every such act of aggression by South Africa has in the past been severely condemned by the international community, but everything falls on the deaf ears of the racist regime of Pretoria.

Designed to intimidate: "The latest attack is obviously designed to intimidate Zimbabwe, which will soon host the next summit of the non-aligned nations. The racist policies have not succeeded in suppressing widespread protests against apartheid within South Africa and they are certainly not going to silence the voices of opposition abroad to their savage methods. The nonaligned nations are fully behind the African frontline States in their opposition to apartheid. We condemn these aggressive acts and will continue to stand solidly behind the brave liberation movements in southern Africa as well as the peoples and Governments of the frontline States."

Min issue at Harare summit: The southern African situation is thus assuming the dimensions of a major international crisis, which is going to be the main issue at the coming non-aligned summit in Harare.

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CSO: 4600/1773

INDIA

ANC PRESIDENT TAMBO MEETS DELHI NEWSMEN

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 May 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 9

The African National Congress president, Mr. Oliver Tambo, today said India had done everything it could possibly do to help the struggle against apartheid.

Answering questions at a press conference here, he said, "India has not let us down in any way. If the Nonaligned Movement did not achieve its own objectives, there was no way the blame could be laid on the door of India because of its chairmanship".

The ANC had sought from India material assistance like food, clothing and transport which was always in short supply. The response, according to the indications he had received would be positive.

Mr. Tambo said the only way to bring about an early end to apartheid was to impose sanctions immediately. It "would mean the duration of the armed struggle would be shortened, less lives would be lost and the apartheid system dismantled". Mr. Tambo dismissed as "outdated" the view that sanctions would hurt the southern African nations dependent on the South African economy.

The Pretoria racist regime would do anything to avoid sanctions. It had seemingly taken steps to lift emergency, dismantle the apartheid regime by abolishing pass laws and even expressed its willingness to release the ANC leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela, if the organisation unilaterally gave up armed struggle.

But actually the South African President, Mr. Pieter Botha, had armed the police with more powers which, in effect, meant perpetuation of

the emergency. At the same time, in a message to the recent Tokyo summit of industrialised nations, Mr. Botha indicated that he wanted guarantees that they would not impose sanctions if he used violence against the expected upsurge of violence when Mr. Mandela was released. "So you see the more he puts forward the facade of wanting to negotiate, the more he thinks the move for imposing sanctions by the international community would fade".—Our Special Correspondent

PTI reports:

Speaking after he was conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Law (*honoris causa*) by the Jawaharlal Nehru University here, Mr. Tambo asserted that the freedom struggle in South Africa was at a decisive stage and victory was in sight. "We know that we shall win because we are of the world and the world is with us."

Mr. Tambo said he was accepting the honour on behalf of "the youth and children of South Africa, who have not left it to their parents and professors to fight for their future."

The central issue in South Africa was the "inalienable right" of the people to exercise full and untrammelled power over the affairs of their country on the basis of a new and fully democratic constitution.

Conferring the degree, the Chancellor, Prof. D. S. Kothari, described apartheid as "anti-science and anti-reason". Among those present were the Vice-President, Mr. R. Venkataraman, the Chairman of the Policy Advisory Committee, Mr. G. Parthasarathi, and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. N. Srivatsava.

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CSO: 4600/1774

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT GANDHI VISIT TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Lusaka, Harare Activities

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 May 86 p 1

[Text]

HARARE, May 15 (PTI).

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, today launched a frontal attack on apartheid in South Africa and said the freedom struggle in that country "is well beyond the point of return" and "they are going to get independence".

Describing the racist government as a "regime without any sense of shame — without any sense of human decency", Mr. Gandhi hoped that the eighth nonaligned summit here in August-September would give an added thrust to "our fight for freedom, human rights and democracy in Namibia and South Africa".

The South African situation dominated the second day of Mr. Gandhi's five-day solidarity mission to four frontline African states. During his talks with President Kaunda of Zambia and the Zimbabwean premier, Mr. Robert Mugabe, at the joint press conference with Dr. Kaunda before his departure from Lusaka for Harare and at his banquet speech here, the freedom struggle in South Africa and apartheid was the main theme.

While in their official talks here today, Mr. Gandhi and his Zimbabwean counterpart expressed concern over the situation in South Africa and the role it was playing in destabilis-

ing the region, the Indian and Zambian leaders, in their joint press conference felt that the current situation in South Africa could not hold for long and was likely to "explode" if no negotiated settlement was arrived at soon to end apartheid.

The agenda of the talks between the two prime ministers centred on the South African situation and its effects on its southern African neighbours, but the billing was equally shared with preparations for eighth summit of the nonaligned summit.

The meeting between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Mugabe comes at a time when the group of Commonwealth negotiators are in South Africa — their third visit — to initiate political dialogue and were planning to meet the President Botha and the jailed nationalist leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

Both India and Zimbabwe were instrumental in establishing the group of seven eminent persons at the Commonwealth summit at Nassau in Bahamas last October and part of the deal was that both Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Mugabe would personally be kept up-to-date with the negotiations.

All this is taking place as the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) bandits, backed by South

Africans despite the Nkomati peace agreement signed with Maputo in 1984, are attempting to topple the government of President Samora Machel and, in Angola, the UNITA rebels have received a \$ 15-million military backing from the U.S.

Mr. Gandhi also discussed the broad mechanics of the nonaligned summit in Harare and the issues that will come up and the trend at the coordinating bureau meeting of NAM which he inaugurated last month.

Bilateral matters were also discussed at the official level talks. The two-way trade between India and Zimbabwe today stands at 10 million U.S. dollars.

Mr. Gandhi has come to Zimbabwe at a time when it is enjoying a trade surplus, recorded last year, at \$ 310 millions and a balance of payments surplus of about \$ 115 millions.

The internal security situation is also on the quiet side following unity talks between the government and its main opposition party, ZAPU-PF, led by Dr. Joshua Nkomo who, with Mr. Mugabe, was joint leader of the Patriotic Front during the independence struggle.

But overshadowing Zimbabwe's air of quiet prosperity and political calm is the South African issue and its destabilisation of its neighbours.

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 May 86 p 9

[Text]

HARARE, May 16 (PTI).

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi today pointed to some western countries' "double standards" in applying sanctions and asked how nations which had fought for their own freedom and espoused human rights, "can lower themselves to allowing apartheid to continue in one part of the world."

Addressing a press conference along with the Zimbabwean premier, Mr. Robert Mugabe, before leaving for Angola to continue his tour of frontline states, Mr. Gandhi said: "There is lot of double standards when it comes to sanctions."

"Countries that are ready to apply sanctions have for some reason been reluctant," he said.

During the press conference, which focussed on apartheid and South Africa, Mr. Gandhi said: "Our attempt is to avoid bloodshed in South Africa ... to bring about a change with minimum of bloodshed."

"But we must avoid a major explosion. I feel the trends are heading for a major explosion," he said.

The current mission of the eminent persons group of the commonwealth headed by the former Australian prime minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser and including the former external affairs minister, Mr. Sardar Swaran Singh, was to avoid that and bring the pretoria regime to see reason and "actually move in a positive direction", Mr. Gandhi said.

"We will wait and see what the EPG (eminent persons group), now on its third visit to South Africa, brings back," Mr. Gandhi said. The commonwealth leaders concerned would meet in August in London to consider

the EPG formulation and further action.

The prime minister said he did not rule out the success of EPG. But he believed that EPG had not really "got its teeth" into the actual issue which was the end of apartheid. "Everything is peripheral," he said.

Mr. Gandhi said the two main issues that would dominate the non-aligned summit in Harare in September would be South Africa and how to end apartheid and "what sort of thrust we can give."

Earlier, the prime minister, announced that India and Zimbabwe would set up a joint commission to give a thrust to their bilateral co-operation.

"We have decided to raise the level of interaction" between the two countries. "I hope this will lead to greater co-operation," he said.

Luanda, (PTI): India on Friday deprecated attempts to introduce conditions which bear no relationship to the central issue of Namibian independence and said "colonialism in Namibia persists only because of lack of will in the security council."

Mr. Gandhi was making an oblique reference, during his speech at a dinner given in his honour by the Angolan President, Mr. Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, to the U.S. attempts to link Namibian independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Pointing out that there were no preconditions to the U.N. plan for Namibia's independence, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said "neither extraneous happenings in other sovereign countries nor the extension into non-aligned Africa of East-West rivalries can justify the thwarting of immediate freedom for Namibia."

More on Luanda Activities

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 86 p 9

[Text]

LUANDA, May 17 (PTI).

INDIA has embarked on a new era of bilateral relations with Angola with a decision to establish a permanent embassy in Luanda and enter into an agreement for technical and economic co-operation.

The decision to set up the embassy in Luanda was taken by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during talks, lasting over two hours, with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos here last night.

Indian interests in Angola are currently looked after by the Indian high commission in Zambia.

While Mr. Gandhi and Mr. dos Santos held talks on bilateral and international issues, the external affairs minister, Mr. Shiv Shanker, and the Angolan trade minister, Mr. Ismael Martins, helped by senior officials, discussed ways of enhancing trade between the two countries.

Mr. Shiv Shanker told newsmen today that a high-level Angolan delegation led by Mr. Martins would visit India in July to sign the agreement on technical and economic co-operation.

India has offered to buy as much crude oil, raw gems and precious stones as Angola can supply and in return supply textiles, drugs and machine tools to it.

Mr. Shiv Shanker, who is also in charge of commerce, said an Indian delegation would visit Angola within 15 days to finalise the deal for buying diamonds and precious stones.

Angola has sought Indian co-operation in developing its open mines and setting up a fertiliser plant.

The country, which is rich in natural resources, will supply phosphate to India.

Angola produces 260,000 barrels of petroleum per day and its oil reserves are estimated at 1.84 billion barrels. Its diamond production in 1985 was 800,000 carats. Angola is the fifth largest producer of diamonds in the world with over 80 per cent of production being high-quality gemstones while the rest are of industrial quality.

Angola also has deposits of iron ore, coal, phosphate, uranium, nickel, cop-

per, gold, bauxite, limestone and rare earths.

Mr. Shiv Shanker said that the Angolan delegation would come to India with a comprehensive shopping list.

He said Angola had sought a feasibility report from India for setting up a gas-based fertiliser plant here. It has also asked for Indian assistance in developing its communication systems, including shipping, transport and the automobile sector.

During his discussions with President dos Santos, Mr. Gandhi offered to send an eminent archaeologist to Luanda to suggest measures to preserve the armed forces central museum, a legacy of the Angolan freedom struggle, at the fort of St. Miguel.

Mr. Gandhi yesterday visited the museum which contains mementos of Angola's late founder President de Antonio Agostinho Neto and the fiery revolutionary Jose Mendes de Carvalho, who studied in Cuba and died in battle against the Portuguese on April 14, 1968.

According to an official spokesman, Mr. dos Santos has asked Mr. Gandhi to step up bilateral economic co-operation.

On his part, Mr. Gandhi extended political and economic support to Angola. He said that India was keen to develop South-South co-operation and pointed out that most of the current problems arose from lack of economic independence of developing countries.

Mr. Gandhi said some of the developed countries were making a concerted effort to lower prices of commodities from developing countries to make development more difficult.

He also pointed out that the expertise developed by India in nuclear engineering, space, defence, electronics and biotechnology was far cheaper than that available in the West.

Mr. Shiv Shanker said that India had agreed to Angola's request for agricultural implements and expertise to train personnel to promote agricultural development.

Angola is also keen to import more bicycles from India. Last year, it bought one million dollars worth of bicycles from different countries.

Remarks in Dar-es-Salaam

Calcutta THE HINDU STATESMAN in English 18 May 86 p 1

[Text]

DAR ES SALAAM, May 17.—Mr. Indira Gandhi today issued his message against apartheid to the leaders of South Africa and urged the constitutional road of reform there. He said the nuclear era and its attendant responsibilities and ethical imperatives in Africa and comprehensive non-alignment conditions against the Pretoria regime to forestall a terrible bi-racialism report FII.

"We make these demands in the name of humanity, justice and peace and in the name of the very life of the world for which people had fought for centuries against evil, against exploitation and against the nuclear war," Mr. Gandhi said at a banquet held in his honour by the Tanzanian President, Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

The theme of apartheid was the first point of both of his talks with the Tanzanian President in the evening as well as in his banquet speech.

Mr. Gandhi observed: "We have seen enough and morality pitted against reality and barbarism. We have seen courage and tenacity. We have seen people of South Africa infused with a will to victory. The evil of apartheid shall be exterminated and Namibia shall be free."

While at a Press conference in Luanda before leaving the Angolan capital, the Prime Minister said the time for discussing various issues and modalities to end apartheid was over. In his banquet speech, he recalled India's continued support to the African brothers and sisters in their fight to end apartheid.

Tanzania, in turn, turned on and gave a rousing response to Mr. Gandhi when he arrived here on the last leg of his solidarity mission to African frontline States—Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Togo. The Tanzanian President gave a warm welcome to Mr. Gandhi when he arrived here.

Mr. Gandhi, at his Press conference in the banquet, replied to questions on bilateral, regional and international issues.

For the first time, India has shown special interest and focus in this region in the economic field and the Government's decision to set up a permanent embassy in Luanda will go a long way to expanding trade between the two countries.

The Prime Minister said India and Angola would sign a memorandum of understanding when the Angolan Commerce Minister visited Delhi in July.

UNI adds: Mr. Gandhi today offered technical expertise in a variety of areas to Angola with a view to "improving and creating" trade and commercial relations between the two countries. Some such areas for co-operation had already been identified which would be given a final shape in a few months' time, the Prime Minister briefed reporters.

Dar-es-Salaam Press Conference

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 May 86 p 1

[Article by R.K. Mishra]

[Text]

Luanda, May 17

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has stressed that newly independent and non-aligned countries should work together to thwart imperialist designs aimed against them.

"We should ensure that our countries do not remain vulnerable to imperialist pressures," Mr. Gandhi said during his talks with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The two young leaders were able to establish a close rapport, the results of which were evident in Mr. Gandhi's prompt decision to establish an embassy here and give a big spurt to economic relations between India and Angola.

Addressing a press conference before leaving for Dar-es-Salaam, the last leg of his whirlwind tour of frontline African states, Mr. Gandhi

made scathing attack on countries which continue to extend support to apartheid and the Pretoria regime.

Replying to a question, he said the non-aligned movement as well as India have taken several initiatives to further the objective of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. These efforts had evoked world wide support although some governments have not responded to these initiatives in satisfactory manner.

It was, therefore, necessary to intensify efforts to build up effective pressures to secure the objective, he said.

He warned that the chances of a nuclear conflagration by sheer accident were increasing and regretted that some countries were obstructing efforts towards demilitarisation of the

Indian Ocean. The proposal to convene a conference on the subject was being championed at the United Nations, he said.

Agencies add: During his discussions with the Angolan President, Mr Gandhi said his current visit to frontline states was to extend India's support to these countries which they needed at this critical juncture of history.

In reply President Dos Santos paid tribute to India's role as chairman of NAM and said it was "a moderation and stabilisation" force in international relations.

While Mr Gandhi and Mr Dos Santos held talks on bilateral and international issues, External Affairs Minister P Shiv Shankar and Angolan Trade Minister Ismael Martins, assisted by senior officials, discussed ways of enhancing trade between the two countries.

Mr Shiv Shankar told newsmen that a high-level Angolan delegation, led by Mr Martins, would visit India in July to sign the agreement on technical and economic cooperation.

Mr Shiv Shankar, who is also in charge of Commerce, said an Indian delegation would visit Angola within 15 days to finalise the deal for buying diamonds and precious stones.

Mr Gandhi also extended political and economic support to Angola. He said that India was keen to develop South-South cooperation and pointed out that most of the current problems arose from lack of economic independence of developing countries.

Mr Gandhi said some developed countries were making a concerted effort to lower prices of commodities from developing countries to make development more difficult.

Mr Shiv Shankar said previously that from Mr Gandhi's visit India would mark the end of this era of world unrest.

Namibian independence: Mr Gandhi, who later arrived in the Namibian capital of Windhoek, urged President Al Hassen Namukani to demand "unconditional grant of independence" to Namibia and an immediate end to subversion and outside interference in South Africa.

The demand was made at a state banquet headed in honour of the visiting Indian leader by Mr Namukani.

Reaffirming solidarity with "our brothers and sisters in South Africa" the two leaders pledged "continued support" to the movement for the independence of Namibia.

Mr Gandhi expressed India's firm support to the just struggle of the people of South Africa to attain their human rights and political freedom.

Expectations from Tour

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 May 86 p 7

[Text]

Dar Es Salaam, May 18 (UPI) — Frontline African states expect a fresh Indian initiative at the London Commonwealth conference in August for an international effort to end apartheid in South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia, according to informed sources here.

The expectation arose during Mr Rajiv Gandhi's six-day tour of the region — the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister — which ended here today.

Moreover, three of the four countries — Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania Mr Gandhi visited are members of the Commonwealth "Eminent Person Group (EPG)" set up at Bahamas last year, appears to be heading for a failure.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, currently the leader of the frontline states, had observed

during Mr Gandhi's stay in Lusaka that EPG was the last attempt at peaceful settlement in South Africa and its failure would result in a bloodbath.

The EPG, of which former External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh is also a member, scheduled to submit its report next month. It had discussions with imprisoned African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela and the regime.

What has raised hopes about an Indian initiative was the repeated plea by Mr Gandhi for an advance strategy to deal with the situation if the EPG failed to bring the Pretoria regime to the negotiation table.

As the popular movement has of late been gaining ground in South Africa — since January, people have been dying there at a rate of 150 per month as against 70 last year — the racist regime

has increasingly taken to fomenting trouble in the independent states on its borders, especially Angola.

The frontline states want some decisive international action to counter Pretoria lest their economies are affected.

Mr Gandhi had played an important role at the Bahamas conference of the Commonwealth heads of government where a list of limited sanctions against South Africa was agreed upon ignoring the objections of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

All along, the tone of Mr Gandhi's criticism of the Pretoria regime had been much more strident than the leaders of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Tanzania which gave rise to the feeling here that India had something in mind to make the Botha regime wobble its wares.

Besides the political issues, Mr Gandhi made use of the opportunity to further expand India's trade and commercial ties with the frontline states.

In Angola, he agreed to improve further relations by deciding to establish India's embassy in Luanda and set up a joint commission.

Zimbabwe and Zambia would be sending to New Delhi high-level delegations to identify further areas of bilateral cooperation

with India.

"We want to benefit from India's achievement and learn from its mistakes", Mr Kaunda had remarked.

Besides Mrs Sonia Gandhi, the Prime Minister was accompanied by External Affairs Minister P Shiv Shankar, his Minister of State Eduardo Feliore, Minister of State for Fertiliser K Natwar Singh and Foreign Secretary A P Venkateswaran.

Accomplishments on Tour

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 May 86 p 1

[Article by R.K. Mishra]

[Text]

Dar-Es-Salaam, May 18

P rime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's four nation tour of Africa has, apart from giving a vigorous and purposeful momentum to the political struggle against apartheid and for Namibia's independence, opened new possibilities of significantly expanding bilateral ties between India and these countries in economy, trade, technology and human resource development.

Mr Gandhi left for New Delhi to night after a whirlwind tour of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Tanzania which has set the stage for launching the final battle for dismantling apartheid.

Mr Gandhi's discussions with the leaders of frontline African States will now be followed by a meeting of Organisation of African Unity, review of the efforts being made by the Eminent Persons' Group by Commonwealth leaders in August in London and climaxing in the Non Aligned summit at Harare in September where the future course of action is expected to be finalised.

Mr Gandhi has asked his officials to work out a long-term plan to help these countries in areas of their choice where Indian capabilities exist.

The decision to set up an Indo-Zimbabwe joint commission to identify areas of cooperation, the proposed visit to India by a high-level delegation led by the Zimbabwe Prime Minister and the decision to open a resident

mission in Luanda are steps which would facilitate follow up action and give concrete shape to ideas exchanged by Mr Gandhi and leaders of these countries.

There is already an Indo-Tanzanian Joint Commission. While the Prime Minister was holding personal discussions with Presidents and Prime Ministers of these countries, Foreign Minister P Shiv Shankar held exploratory talks with ministers and senior officials dealing with industry, finance, agriculture and other areas of economic activity.

The requirements of these countries are vast and their untapped potential enormous, but all of them face severe financial constraints and are victims of price manipulation by the United States and other western countries.

For example, in 1980 African countries could buy more than 30 tonnes of mineral fertiliser by selling a tonne of coffee. After 70 years, the amount of fertiliser that could be obtained by exporting the same quantity of coffee fell to less than half.

In addition, the US policies in the region, particularly the support to the destabilisation activities through the Pretoria regime has imposed a heavy burden of expenditure on armaments.

Some 15 years ago Africa was the smallest arms buyer in the world, but now it spends as much as Latin American and the Pacific nations together.

The first task Mr Rajiv Gandhi has underlined is the need to enlarge the area of awareness of needs and capabilities.

Angola, for example, has rich resources of hydrocarbons and minerals such as diamonds, iron ore, coal, phosphates, uranium, nickel, copper, gold and bauxite and could become a major producer of several agricultural commodities. According to competent Indian sources, when circumstances permit Angola to concentrate on national reconstruction, the country could emerge as one of Africa's most prosperous nations.

Angola suffers a critical shortage of technical manpower and as the Tanzanian experience shows Angola could greatly benefit from Indian experts and training institutions. More than a thousand Indian expatriates are working in Tanzania and India plays an important role in providing training facilities to Tanzanians.

The possibility of diversifying economic relations between India and Zambia which currently imports engineering goods, a variety of consumer goods and drugs and pharmaceuticals, have to overcome the twin problems of Zambia's acute foreign exchange crisis and the need of larger short-term credits.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has made it clear that his government believes in first approaching the developing countries for its requirements in technology and other ar-

eas before going to the countries of North. He said the proposed joint commission should also examine the possibilities of joint ventures.

Mr Gandhi enunciated his approach towards these countries lucidly when he told President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola "Four decades of development have yielded a wide variety of experience and significant results. These we place at your disposal".

An eloquent illustration of this basic approach was Mr Gandhi's offer to Tanzanian President this morning to extend Indian cooperation for bringing about a green revolution in this country and help Tanzania become self-reliant in food production.

Of the estimated 14 million hectares of arable land in Tanzania, only 6 per cent is currently under cultivation. Mr Gandhi made this proposal during his talks with President Ali Hassan Mwinyi who was assisted by nine ministers during the full delegation-level discussions.

The Tanzanian President welcomed the idea and said after several years of drought in his country, rainfall this year was good and therefore it would be the right time to begin work on agriculture.

During his talks in all the four African countries, the Indian Prime Minister has given the highest priority to economic cooperation. "Political independence of our countries would remain vulnerable unless it has economic content", he told President Mwinyi.

/9317
CSO: 4600/1777

INDIA

GANDHI SPEECH AT 22 MAY BANQUET FOR NUJOMA REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 May 86 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has strongly defended the frontline African States' right to grant sanctuary to freedom fighters of South Africa, and urged the non-aligned movement he is heading to step up efforts for dismantling apartheid.

It is not enough to condemn racist Pretoria regime's raids on frontline African States, the Prime Minister said at a banquet he hosted in honour of visiting SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma Thursday night, and asserted that the right of the "frontline States to grant sanctuary to the freedom fighters of South Africa and Namibia "cannot be abridged or abrogated".

The Prime Minister questioned Western attempts to link the Namibian independence issue with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, and pledged India's "continued moral and material" support to SWAPO's struggle for Namibia's independence from illegal Pretoria occupation.

Earlier in the day, Mr Gandhi discussed with Mr Nujoma, who arrived on a six-day official visit to the country, the first after India accorded recognition to SWAPO last year, the situation in Southern Africa, particularly Namibia.

During the 90-minutes round of talks, the two leaders also discussed specific steps that the non-aligned movement should take to help end apartheid and secure liberation and independence of Namibia.

The two leaders felt that the non-aligned movement should initiate a series of steps at the UN and other world fora for dismantling racism, for which the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit at Nassau had passed a resolution with complete unanimity.

Making a very thorough and detailed exchange of views of the deteriorating situation in Southern Africa, Mr Gandhi and Mr Nujoma also discussed the visit of the Eminent Persons' Group of the Commonwealth to South Africa last week and the Pretoria regime's strategy in dealing with its neighbours.

While Mr Gandhi apprised Mr Nujoma of his recent tour of the frontline States, the Namibian leader briefed Mr Gandhi on the stalemate in implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 435, which had upheld Namibia's right to independence and self-determination.

Questioning the attempts by some Western powers to link the issue of Namibian independence with withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, the Prime Minister in his banquet speech forthrightly asked: "How can there be a nexus between the Security Council implementing unconditionally its own plan for unconditional independence to Namibia and Angola's sovereign right to take such measures as it deems fit to preserve its freedom and integrity?"

Apartheid, Mr Gandhi said, could not be remodified, altered or redesigned. It must be dismantled, immediately and entirely. To this, com-

prehensive mandatory sanctions constituted the inescapable necessity. He, however, visualised a peaceful solution to the problem of South Africa "only if we acted swiftly", and said the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' Group was exploring the possibility.

The Prime Minister reiterated India's total commitment to the cause of Namibia and said: "We see your struggle as our struggle". India would continue to extend its moral and material support to the struggling people of Southern Africa and Namibia, he said.

Earlier on his arrival, Mr Nujoma said the racist Pretoria regime had imposed a "war" on the frontline States by making sweeping raids against them this week.

"What is happening in the region of Southern Africa is war—a war that is deliberately imposed on the peoples of frontline States", Mr Nujoma said while talking to newsmen. He made touching references to the ceremonial reception he was accorded on arrival of his first official visit to the country, and expressed his "deepest gratitude and appreciation" to Mr Gandhi for India's material assistance and political and diplomatic support to the Namibian cause.

The SWAPO leader was accorded a full ceremonial reception on arrival. Besides Mr Rajiv Gandhi, senior Cabinet Ministers, high-ranking military and civil officials, members of Parliament were present to welcome Mr Nujoma. The SWAPO leader's wife Mrs Kovambo Theopoldine, who is attending a course at Mount Abu, was also present.

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CSO: 4600/1787

INDIA

NUJOMA SPEAKS AT INAUGURATION OF SWAPO EMBASSY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 May 86 p 5

[Text]

The first Embassy of SWAPO was inaugurated in New Delhi on Saturday in the Asiad Games Village Complex with SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma hoisting the flag to the gentle singing of the national song and spontaneous applause.

As the blue, red and green flag fluttered high, the Namibian leader said that the people of Namibia had no other alternative except to intensify its armed struggle against the racist regime.

He said the recent news from their provincial office was that SWAPO's military wing had shot down two military transport planes and a helicopter gunship of the racist regime and also destroyed two military bases of the racists.

The SWAPO leader while expressing solidarity with the ANC, the PLO and the Polisario Front people struggling for their freedom, strongly condemned the Reagan-led US administration, the UK and the Federal Republic of Germany for their support to the racist regime.

He decried the use of Namibian land, where South Africa had built bases, to train, equip and transport UNITA bandits into Angolan territory to kill civilians and destabilise the Peoples Republic. He spoke of the US administration

supplying weapons, Stinger missiles and millions of dollars to the UNITA bandits.

The inauguration of the Embassy was attended by a large number of people from the diplomatic corps, senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro.

Describing the inauguration as historic and a significant day in relations between the peoples of these two nations, Mr Nujoma expressed deep gratitude and thanks to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Government and people for according this diplomatic recognition.

Mr Eduardo Faleiro described the inauguration as a landmark in relations between the two peoples. India's ideological commitment to support the Namibian people, he said is not new but deep rooted in history which goes back to the pre-independence period of Mahatma Gandhi's movement.

The recent visit of the Prime Minister to the Frontline states had reinforced the conviction to increase support to these states and strengthen their economic set-up towards self-reliance, he said.

/9317
CSO: 4600/1792

INDIA

SOUTH AFRICAN COLORED, ASIAN LEGISLATORS BANNED ENTRY

Madras THE HINDU in English 22 May 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 21.

The Government of India today banned the entry of any member of the Asian and coloured legislatures, which form part of the so-called "constitutional reforms" announced by the South African white minority Government in August 1984.

The representatives of Asian and coloured communities in the South African tri-cameral legislature did not appear to have made "any meaningful effort" to press for an end to apartheid or for a representation of the black majority, an official release said here. "They are not representative of the coloured or Asian communities in South Africa, and their participation in this sham exercise only serves to divide and weaken the struggle against apartheid"

The release said that this step was being taken "as a measure of our sympathy and support for all those struggling to introduce an equitable and democratic regime in South Africa".

During his recent tour of the frontline States, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had made it clear on various occasions that steps like lifting the emergency and abolishing pass laws, being announced by the Pretoria regime, were only intended to delay the dismantling of apartheid. In Harare, while replying to a question on the damaging of Mahatma Gandhi's Phoenix Ashram allegedly by black groups, Mr. Gandhi had said that the apartheid regime, "like retreating colonialism", would do everything in its power to divide the South African people fighting for justice.

These so-called reforms totally excluded the black majority from any form of political participation, and even the coloured and Asian communities were given limited powers.—Our Special Correspondent

/9317
CSO: 4600/1784

INDIA

ANALYST SEES PENDING PROBLEMS FOR SRI LANKA, PUNJAB

Madras THE HINDU in English 24 May 86 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 23

The next few months are going to be particularly difficult for India both on the domestic and international fronts, as the Punjab and Sri Lanka problems get worse and the relations with the U.S. get strained over the Southern African situation.

The Centre is faced with the disconcerting prospect of a long drawn out fight against terrorism in Punjab with the extremists bent on giving a communal twist to their campaign of senseless violence.

It is not surprising that the Punjab police chief, Mr. J. F. Ribeiro, has started comparing the situation in this troubled State to what has been happening in Northern Ireland to stress that there is no quick solution to terrorism. But what is undermining the prestige of the Central Government is its apparent inability to do anything more to put down this threat to the integrity and unity of this big country which derives its real strength from its diversity rather than uniformity as a composite nation.

Prospects bleak: The current visualisation is that there is little prospect of any worthwhile improvement in Indo-Pakistan relations until the Punjab crisis is resolved leaving little scope for any further interference across the border in the country's internal problems. But India sees no harm in keeping up the appearance of an on going dialogue even if nothing substantial is going to come out of it.

It is the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict that is continuing to cause increasing concern in Delhi because of its spill over effect on neighbouring Tamil Nadu which is understandably concerned about what goes on across the Palk Straits. There is a marked hardening of the Indian attitude followed by an increasing loss of confidence in the good faith of the Jayewardene Government, creating serious doubts in India's mind whether Sri Lanka is really interested in a peaceful solution to its ethnic problem.

Polarisation in Sri Lanka: The Government of India has to contend with the reality of a complete polarisation in Sri Lanka, rendering a negotiated settlement all the more difficult in the aftermath of latest military operations. The fact that the ragtag Sri Lankan army is unable to subdue the Tamil militants has deepened the ethnic conflict and made India's task of bringing about an amicable settlement almost impossible for the present.

The country's increasing involvement in African developments and its crusade against the nuclear arms race are, no doubt, laudable objectives about which there can be no two opinions. But the diplomatic challenges of keeping up a delicate balance between the country's international responsibilities and enlightened self interests is posing its own problems.

The recent improvement in Indo American relations have been strained by the indefensible U.S. attack on Libya which, in turn, seems to have encouraged South Africa to bomb the so-called guerilla sanctuaries in the capitals of three frontline States. The U.S. has been cautioning India in its own ubiquitous way to bear its concerns in mind in leading the crusade of the non-aligned countries against continued British and American refusal to impose economic sanctions.

The increasing Indian disenchantment with the U.S. attitudes is obliging Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his advisers to adopt critical postures which are leading in turn to a certain amount of displeasure in Washington. It cannot be ruled out that, in an attempt to exert some gentle pressures on India, the U.S. might start giving more arms to Pakistan.

There is an equal danger of Sri Lanka attempting to internationalise its ethnic problem by taking the issue to the Security Council and appealing to the West for both moral and material support in its fight against Tamil terrorism. This, in turn, can lead to an intensification of the superpower rivalries in the Indian Ocean.

/9317
CSO: 4600/1790

INDIA

APOLOGY TO PAKISTAN FOR CLOSING OF SALAL TUNNEL

Madras THE HINDU in English 22 May 86 p 9

[Text]

SRINAGAR, May 21

The Government of India has expressed its regret to the Pakistan Government in reply to its recent protest over the plugging of the diversion tunnel of the Salal hydro-electric project, which had affected the flow of the Chenab water to Pakistan, causing damage to food crops.

The tunnel was plugged by the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Jagmohan, at the invitation of the General Manager of the Salal hydro-electric project, Mr. P. N. Khar, on April 22. The project comes under the Indus water treaty between India and Pakistan. The plugging, without clearance from the Central Water and Power Commission created a major problem for India. The gates were reopened without ceremony on May 6.

According to official reports available here there were two reasons for reopening the diversion tunnel. First the closing ceremony was performed in haste which is evident from the fact that seepage was noticed within days of the plugging when the water level had hardly reached 400 feet (full level 483 feet) in the reservoir. The main reason for reopening was the serious objection raised by the Pakistan Government. Under the Indus water treaty the water of the Chenab can be stored in the reservoir only during the rainy season, from the month of June to August.

Soon after the publication and broadcasting of the report of the plugging the Pakistan Power Commissioner airdashed to New Delhi to lodge the protest. A joint team of India and Pakistan visited project site in the last week of April and it was decided to reopen the gates immediately.

Meanwhile according to present indications the first phase of the Salal hydro-electric project may not be commissioned before June 1987, though on April, 22 Mr. Khar had announced that it would be commissioned in October this year.

/9317
CSO: 4600/1784

INDIA

INDIA, PAKISTAN AGREE TO REOPEN CHECKPOINT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 May 86 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 22--India and Pakistan today agreed to reopen as early as possible a second checkpoint at Khokhrapar-Munnabao in the south-western sector.

At the end of the talks held here since Monday between the Pakistani and Indian delegations, the two sides agreed to exchange information about the Customs, immigration and health check facilities which would be provided at Munnabao on the Indian side and at Khokhrapar on the Pakistani side.

A Railway team from India will visit Pakistan in June-July to further discuss the modalities for opening the checkpoint.

Though the opening of the second checkpoint has been suggested by India several times in the past at the meetings of the joint commission, Pakistan has been dragging its feet. Lately, when the Pakistanis expressed their willingness to restore the rail route, India readily agreed and, in fact, informed Pakistan that it was in a position to open the rail route almost immediately. But both sides would have to undertake a certain amount of restoration work on the tracks.

India expects that at the next meeting in June-July, Pakistani Railway officials will be able to give a time-table for opening the rail route, something anxiously awaited, among others, by Sindhis in Pakistan.

At the talks here, the two sides also discussed improving the existing facilities at the Wagah border.

UNI addn: The 1974 India-Pakistan visa agreement provided for two checkpoints on the border--one at Wagah-Attari in Punjab and another at Munnabao-Khokhrapar on the Rajasthan-Sind border.

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CSO: 4600/1785

INDIA

BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH IRAQ TERMED UNSATISFACTORY

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 May 86 p 6

[Article by F.J. Khergamvala]

[Text]

BAHRAIN, May 22

Iraq's failure to repay accumulated commercial debts to India has occasioned Indian companies to think that they have got a raw deal despite their dogged commitment to completing the contracts when others were packing up their tool boxes during the early stages of the Gulf war. As a result, say sources, many Indian construction firms have stopped bidding for new projects.

Unsettled debts to India amount to nearly \$680 millions (Rs. 820 crores), as of January 1986, about the same as Baghdad's estimated military expenditure a month. Indian firms have undertaken about \$3 billions worth of contracts in Iraq over the last decade.

There are nearly 30,000 Indians still working on contracts in Iraq for about 50 companies. One official said that companies from 'A to Z' were involved and proceeded to rattle off names in their alphabetical order. The Exim Bank of India has, of late not been actively encouraging companies to make fresh bids.

Iraq stand: Iraqi officials are aware of India's concern on the matter as well as the circumstances that put Iraq in such a predicament. They feel that Indian companies do not exhibit the same appreciation of the situation. People in Iraq on contract from India and elsewhere have a more complex reading of the travails of Baghdad and the methods adopted by the Government there to tide over its difficulties. They feel that Iraq instead of matching Iran's belt tightening measures is being complacent. Though it would be temporarily unpopular, a reduction in Iraq's consumer imports would enable it to honour its debts.

Indian engineering industry circles in the region are peeved over Iraq's self-righteous attitude, as they see it, in linking part repayment of debts to the acceptance of additional contracts, thus forcing the continued presence of some companies in Iraq. Independent sources confirmed that this was true. An Indian company was recently awarded a Basra sewerage contract for \$165 millions.

Discriminatory treatment: Significantly, bankers and economic analysts uniformly describe Iraq's debt repayment policy towards its creditors as discriminatory. Admittedly, the country's estimated debts are at a mountainous \$50 billions, of which nearly \$30 billions are in loans from Gulf States and in the short term can be written off.

However, Iraq has taken particular care not to default with payments to countries like France, Italy and the U.K. France has a total exposure to Iraq of more than \$5 billions, including military sales. Italy, through its export credit agency at \$2 billions and the U.K. at about the same level as India's.

Other countries too: To be sure, India is not the only country to suffer. Iraq has picked on West Germany, Japan, Yugoslavia and Turkey as well. Although West German debts are still outstanding, Japan has agreed to some re-scheduling and more is being considered. However, Indian officials feel, India can hardly be put in the same league. New Delhi had deferred the first instalment of a \$298 millions due in 1983, and repayment has since been twice postponed and further negotiations are yet to be held. A meeting to resolve the problem was

held in February this year but Baghdad is asking for further rescheduling. Meanwhile Indian firms are chary about bidding further till deferred payments due in 1986 are settled.

Iraq which generally prefers to settle some debts through oil cannot work this scheme with India.

Armtwisting: Iraq's arm twisting of Indian firms has made it difficult for New Delhi to convey its political concerns to the engineering industry. Iraq has been promising all 'friends in need' of preferential post-war treatment. The Indian firms are more concerned about the immediate future and rule out being compared with the Japanese and the stakes for which they play, although there is universal recognition at a post conflict market estimated at \$20 billions annually cannot be scoffed at. In addition, say Indian engineers, Japanese consortia have spent vast amounts to prepare blue-prints

for Iraq's reconstruction, a major chunk of which they hope to bag.

Efforts have been made to explain that India's position is much different. Special concessions are demanded of it as a nonaligned partner but then so is Iran. According to commentators, acceding to Baghdad's request may jeopardise India's equations in the region, and to maintain its options it would perforce have to concede to similar requests from Tehran where the position is not altogether better but the stakes are infinitely smaller. Indian bankers appreciate that major concessions to Iraq would be detrimental to Indian interests while at the same time they hold out hopes of a brighter future in both countries if India could convey its unhappiness in more definite terms. Baghdad appears to be taking advantage of India's need to increase exports and in the process calling in New Delhi's nonaligned credentials.

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CSO: 4600/1786

INDIA

ALLEGATION OF MOLE IN LONDON COMMISSION DENIED

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 22 May 86 p 1

[Article by Ashis Ray]

[Text]

London, May 21: The Indian high commission has dismissed as "absurd" a claim in a British court that the four Sikhs being tried for conspiring to assassinate Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, during his visit here last October, received secret information about his itinerary from sources in the high commission.

British newspapers reported yesterday that the prosecution in the case against the four Sikhs had maintained that one of the defendants, Mr Jarnail Singh Ranuana, had told undercover officers, who had uncovered the plot posing as IRA gunmen, that he had received details of Mr Gandhi's programme from a source in the commission.

The high commission felt the claim was absurd as Mr Gandhi's itinerary was well-known and would not need any special spying to discover.

No formal search for the "mole" has begun as yet at India House and, in fact, is most unlikely until full details of the court proceedings and a report from the British government are

available. Indeed, there is some anger and unpleasant surprise at the mission over the way Whitehall has, apparently, gone about liaising with the high commission in the case. It was rather a shock for the high commissioner, Mr P.C. Alexander, and his staff to learn about an alleged "mole" in the chancery from newspaper reports, instead of being taken into confidence by the British authorities, as is the accepted custom.

There seems to be strong doubt, in informed quarters, as to the veracity of Mr Ranuana's statement to the police, which, incidentally, he has not as yet repeated in court under oath. Mr Gandhi's itinerary during his official visit was quite an open secret and would not have required a traitor, in the true sense of the term, to hand over such information. Lending members of the local Indian community, not to mention tittle-tattle ethnic newspaper establishments in the United Kingdom, were quite well-versed with the Prime Minister's proposed

movements.

Meanwhile, the case in the Leicester magistrate's court was adjourned for the second successive day today. This was because of the failure to resolve the dispute about revealing the identity of the two police officers who pretended to be an IRA gunman and an accomplice. The prosecution has maintained that bringing them into the open would endanger their lives, while the defence has stressed: "It is of vital importance to the defence to know the identity of these witnesses so that we can investigate them."

The day before yesterday, the stipendiary magistrate concerned ruled that in the interests of justice the policemen's identity should be written down and shown only to them and the legal representatives. The prosecution asked for an adjournment to consider this ruling, and was granted it, despite objections from the defence solicitors. The matter, now, has been referred to higher authorities.

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CSO: 4600/1783

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT, COMMENT ON 12 MAY CABINET CHANGES

List After Reshuffle

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 86 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 12 (PTI)--The following is the list of the Union council of ministers after today's reshuffle:

Mr Rajiv Gandhi--Prime Minister who also holds the portfolio of defence and scientific departments; Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao--Human resource development; Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh--Finance; Mr Buta Singh--Home; Mr P. Shiv Shankar--External affairs in addition to commerce; Dr G.S. Dhillon--Agriculture, rural development; Mufti Mohammed Sayed--Tourism; Mr H.K.L. Bhagat--Food and civil supplies in addition to Parliamentary affairs. Mr Abdul Ghani Khan Choudhury--Programme implementation; Mr Abdul Ghafoor--Urban development; Mr Asoke Kumar Sen--Law and justice; Mr B. Shankaranand--Water resources; Mr Hansi Lal--Transport; Mr K.C. Pant--Steel and mines; Mrs Mohsina Kidwai--Health and family welfare; Mr Narayan Dutt Tiwari--Industry; Mr Vasant Sathe--Energy, (a total of 17 ministers of cabinet rank, including the Prime Minister).

Ministers of state:

Mr Khurshid Alam Khan--Textiles; Mr Chandra Shekhar Singh--Petroleum and natural gas; Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai--Welfare; Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha--Communications; Mr P.N. Sangma--Labour; Mr V.N. Gadgil--Information and broadcasting; Mr Ajit Panja--Planning; Mr Arun Nehru--Internal security; Mr Arun Singh--Defence research and development; Mr Dalbir Singh--Urban development.

Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad--Department of states in home ministry; Mr H.R. Bhardwaj--Law and justice; Mr Jagdish Tytler--Civil aviation; Mr Janardhan Poojari--Finance; Mr K. Natwar Singh--Fertilisers; Mr K.R. Narayanan--External affairs; Mr Eduardo Faleiro--External affairs; Mr Madhavrao Scindia--Railways; Mrs Margaret Alva--Youth affairs, sports and women's welfare; Mr M. Arunachalam--Industrial development; Mr R.K. Jaichandra Singh--Chemicals and petro-chemicals.

Mr Rajesh Pilot--Surface transport; Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha--Mines; Mr Shivraj Patil--Science and technology, ocean development, atomic energy, electronics and space; Mr Sitaram Kesri--Parliamentary affairs; Mr Sukh Ram--Defence production and defence supplies; Mrs Shishila Rohatgi--Power; Mr Yogendra Makwana--Agriculture and co-operation; Mr Z.R. Ansari--Environment and forests; Mr P. Chidambaram--Personnel, public grievances and pensions; Mr Brahma Dutt--Commerce; Mr Ramanand Yadav--Rural development; Mr B.K. Gadhvi--Expenditure.

Mrs Sheila Dixit--Parliamentary affairs; Mr Santosh Moham Dev--Tourism; Mrs Krishna Sahi--Education and culture; Prof K.K. Tewari--Public enterprises in the industry ministry; Miss Saroj Khaparde--Health. (a total of 38 ministers of state).

Deputy Ministers:

Mr Giridhar Gomango--Welfare; Mr S. Krishna Kumar--Family welfare; Mr Biren Singh Engtl--Personnel. (a total of three deputy ministers).

Profiles of New Members

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 86 p 14

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 12
(PTI & UNI).

FOLLOWING are the profiles of the new members of the Union council of ministers who were sworn in today.

G. S. DHILLON: Dr. Gardial Singh Dhillon, who distinguished himself as the speaker of the Lok Sabha, was born in Panjwar, Amritsar. He was Lok Sabha speaker from 1969 till he was inducted into Mrs. Gandhi's cabinet in 1975.

Dr. Dhillon has all along been involved in the political life of Punjab, having been speaker of the assembly from 1954 to 1962 and minister in the state cabinet in 1965. He was first elected to Parliament in 1967.

He was chairman of the standing committee of the Commonwealth speakers conference in 1971-73.

KRISHNA SAHI: Ms. Sahi was elected to the Lok Sabha from Begusarai in Bihar in 1984.

A dedicated political and social worker, Ms. Sahi was a member of the United Nations commission on apartheid and represented India on the UN committee on women and apartheid in New York in 1982.

She also represented the Congress at the conference on status of women held in Belgrade in 1983.

MUFTI MOHAMMAD SYED: Born on January 12, 1936, Mufti Mohammad Syed is a former Jammu and Kashmir minister and has led the state Congress unit for more than a decade.

He was first included in the council of ministers of the late Mr. G. M. Sadiq in 1967 as deputy minister for agriculture and co-operation.

He became cabinet minister in charge of works and urban development in 1972 in the ministry of Syed Mir Qasim.

He also played an important role in the signing of the historic Kashmir accord in 1975, as a result of which the late Sheikh Abdullah took over as chief minister and Syed Mir Qasim stepped down.

Mufti Mohammad Syed entered politics in 1952. He was elected to the J&K assembly in 1962 from Bijbehara constituency.

He retained his Bijbehara seat again in 1967 and from 1968 to 1979 he was a member of the legislative council.

SAROJ KHAPARDE: Born on August 13, 1939, Ms. Khaparde has been a political activist since her school days. (Her father, Mr. Parushottam S. Khaparde was a prominent Congress worker of Maharashtra).

A scheduled caste member, Miss Khaparde has been member of the Rajya Sabha for three terms. She first came to the upper house in April 1972 and was re-elected twice, once in 1976 and again in 1982.

Ms. Khaparde studied in Seva Sadan school, Nagpur, and later took a BA degree.

She attended the international women's conference in Berlin in 1972 and in Copenhagen in 1981.

EDUARDO FALEIRO: Born on August 30, 1940, Mr. Faleiro was elected from Mormugao (Goa, Daman, Diu) in 1985.

Mr. Faleiro, a supreme court advocate was convener of the Congress standing committee on foreign affairs (1980-84) and convener of the foreign affairs department, AICC (I).

He was the Indian delegate to the 35th general assembly of the United Nations.

B. K. GADHAVI: Mr. Bheravadas B. Gadhave was elected from Panchnatha in Gujarat in 1984. An advocate, Mr. Gadhave was secretary of the D.C. in 1971-72 and its president from 1972-84.

He was a member of the Indian parliamentary delegation to the Commonwealth parliamentary conference in Nairobi in 1983 and chairman of the committee on government assurances from 1985-86.

BRAHM DUTT: Born in 1926, Mr. Brahm Dutt was influenced by the radical humanist, Mr. M. N. Roy, early in his life. A founder-member of the Lok Dal, Mr. Brahm Dutt later resigned from the Janata Party in 1977 to join the Congress.

He was a member of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet led by Mr. V. P. Singh, Mr. Sripati Mishra and Mr. N. D. Tiwari. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Tehri Garhwal during the last election.

SHRELA DIXIT: Daughter-in-law of the veteran Congress leader and former West Bengal governor, Mr. Uma Shanker Dixit, Mrs. Shreela Dixit was elected to the Lok Sabha from Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh.

A member of the estimates committee 1985-86, she had been a committed political and social worker.

K. K. TIWARI: Forty-eight-year-old Prof. Tiwari first came into the

limelight, as the general secretary of the Patna University Teachers' Association in the mid-seventies.

Prof. Tiwari was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1980 and then in 1984 from Bihar. A highly vocal member of the house he is secretary of the Congress parliamentary party.

RAMANAND YADAV: Freedom-fighter, social worker and trade unionist, Mr. Ramanand Yadav had a long innings in public life before he entered the Rajya Sabha in April 1976. He was re-elected in April 1982.

Born at Mubarakpur (Bihar) in 1927, he took his MA degree in political science from Patna University.

Mr. Yadav took an active part in the freedom struggle from his school days and while a student of the Chhannia zila school, in 1939, he was arrested in connection with the Saran youth conspiracy case.

While he was studying in Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Mr. Yadav participated in the Quit India movement of 1942 and successfully struggled for the release of the late Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia from jail in 1943.

He was again arrested in 1943 at Banaras and detained in several jails of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He was released two months before the declara-

tion of independence in 1947 from the Almorah central jail.

He took an active part in the trade union movement in the country.

BIREN SINGH ENGTI: Born on March 2, 1945, Mr. Biren Singh Engti is serving his third term in the Lok Sabha.

An agriculturist and an advocate, Mr. Engti was first elected to the fifth Lok Sabha (1972-77). He was re-elected twice — once in 1977 and again in 1983.

Mr. Engti was educated at Nongong College and Guwahati University.

SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Born on April 1, 1934, Mr. Dev hails from a family of political activists in Salchar, Assam. He is serving his second term in the Lok Sabha. He was first elected in 1980.

Mr. Mohan Dev was educated at Welsh College of advanced technology and commerce, Cardiff, United Kingdom.

He introduced a new daily Vayudoot service from Salchar to Guwahati.

A keen sportsman, Mr. Mohan Dev has served in various capacities on the board of several sports organisations. He represented the Indian parliamentary delegation to the Moscow Olympics.

Change in Foreign Ministry

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 86 p 9

[Article by V.T. Joshi]

[Text]

The Times of India News Service

ISLAMABAD, May 12: The sudden change in the stewardship of the Indian foreign ministry has come as a surprise to political observers here. However, the replacement of Mr. Bali Ram Bhagat by Mr. Shiv Shanker may prove to be more propitious for Indo-Pak realtions.

Mr. Shiv Shanker is not entirely new to the Pakistani scene. As Indian commerce minister, he visited Islamabad for the SAARC ministerial conference recently.

During his brief sojourn he was known to have had very warm and cordial talks with the Pakistani finance minister, Mr. Yasin Khan Wattoo, and his distinguished predecessor, Dr.

Mahbubul Haq, who is presently the planning and development minister in the Junejo cabinet.

Apart from these talks, which were essentially non-official in nature, Mr. Shiv Shanker received warm greetings from President Zia-ul-Haq to be conveyed to the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

In a chat with Indian correspondents before his departure, Mr. Shiv Shanker gave the impression of carrying home happy memories of his brief visit to Islamabad and talks with Pakistani leaders.

In striking contrast, Mr. Bhagat's stewardship of the external affairs ministry, unfortunately, coincided with the slideback in Indo-Pak relations that had shown signs of steady improvement since the Rajiv-Zia Delhi meeting last December.

Some of Mr. Bhogal's abrasive statements in Parliament and outside, in the wake of the deteriorating Punjab situation and Pakistani reactions to communal riots, did not exactly help improve matters. His caustic comments on the democratic credentials of the Pakistan national assembly failed to endear him to Pakistan leaders, and his counterpart, Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, took umbrage. Their meeting in Delhi during the recent non-aligned co-ordination bureau conference appeared to have helped in relieving some lost ground though the stalemate continues unrelieved.

The return of Ms. Benazir Bhutto to the Pakistani political stage, and the

mass upsurge her mammoth gatherings signify, have introduced a new element of uncertainty in the Pakistani national scene. It must, however, be noted that Ms. Bhutto herself has repeatedly declared that India and Pakistan must bury the hatchet and turn a new leaf, and it gives heart to optimists striving for improvement of Indo-Pak relations.

Ironically, however, domestic political compulsions have led President Zia-ul-Haq to level allegations that Ms. Bhutto is receiving financial help from India. Although strongly refuted by Benazir, President Zia's accusations make a mockery of his oft-declared unilateral "peace offensive" on India.

New Line on Jammu, Kashmir

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 86 p 1

[Text]

SRINAGAR, May 12.

THE induction of the Jammu and Kashmir PCC president, Mufti Mohammed Sayed, into the Union council of ministers today, indicates that a recasting of the Congress political strategy in this state is on the cards.

The Prime Minister and Congress president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has killed two birds with one stone by inducting Mufti Sayed as a cabinet minister. He has given representation in his council of ministers to an individual hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, and that too with cabinet rank. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad also hails from this state, but he is a resident of Doda district in Jammu division and secured a parliamentary seat from Maharashtra. Thus, Mr. Gandhi has conceded a long-standing demand of the people of this state who have sent four Congress MPs to both houses in Parliament.

Mufti Mohammad Sayed was known to be a hawk where the former chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, was concerned. He was of the opinion

that the party should have no truck with Dr. Abdullah. This strategy had been accepted by the central leadership and it culminated in Dr. Abdullah's ouster on July 2, 1984.

But now the central leadership may do some rethinking on its political line with regard to Kashmir. This will be reflected in the selection of the new PCC chief. Probables for the post include Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar, Rajya Sabha member, Mr. Mohammed Shafi Qureshi, former MP and minister, and Mr. Mir Lajjan, PCC vice-president.

Mr. Lajjan is among the dissidents who presented a memorandum against the functioning of the PCC president and some others to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi a few days ago.

Significantly, the dissident members of the Congress advocate accommodation with Dr. Abdullah on basic issues. They are of the opinion that only a front of the Congress and the National Conference (Farooq) can meet the challenge posed by anti-national, secessionist and communal forces in the state.

Indira 'Loyalists' Named

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 May 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 12.—Eleven of the 12 new Ministers are known to be "loyalists", who remained with Indira Gandhi when the Congress split in 1978, reports PTI.

Only Mr. Eduardo Falerio came to the party a little later. He is perhaps the first representative of Goa in the Union Council of Ministers.

Though there was criticism in some quarters about the functioning of Mr. Bali Ram Bhagat as the External Affairs Minister his summary removal came as a surprise in political circles.

Mr. Bhagat joined the Congress (I) after a stint in the Congress (S).

Asked why Mr. Bhagat had been dropped, the Prime Minister re-

marked: "You have to use your head sometimes".

Mr. Bhagat's resignation has been accepted by the President.

Our Special Representative adds: Mr. L. K. Advani, new president of the BJP, said here today that the changes in the Union Council of Ministers showed "ad hocism" as he was "hard put to find the rationale and logic behind them".

When work on the new education policy began, Mr. K. C. Pant was Minister in charge. He was replaced by Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mrs. Sushila Rohatgi, and the latter has now been sent to another department, he said.

There had been 13 changes, big and small, in the Ministry and today was the 14th, Mr. Advani added.

Changes 'A Damp Squib'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 86 p 8

[Text]

The long-awaited reshuffle of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's council of ministers, third in 17 months, has turned out to be a damp squib. Some of the changes brought about by him—such as Mr. G. S. Dhillon's inclusion in the cabinet to give representation to Punjab—run along expected lines. They also make sound sense. But others do not. For instance, the decision to drop Mr. Bali Ram Bhagat after a very short tenure as foreign minister is even more intriguing than his initial appointment eight months ago, since, by all accounts, he has given a good account of himself. His successor, Mr. P. Shiv Shankar, who could easily have been sent to the foreign office when he was included in the cabinet in the first place, will continue to hold "temporary" charge of commerce. This, combined with the fact that Andhra remains virtually unrepresented in the enlarged council of ministers, shows that the ministerial team is still incomplete and that yet another expansion or reshuffle may not be far away. Altogether, it is untidy state of affairs.

Mr. Bhagat is the only minister holding a major portfolio to be given short shrift. Others have been left undisturbed though Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao's is a case apart. Having held charge successively of foreign affairs, home and defence in the past, he was suddenly shifted to the newly created ministry of human resource development last September. For several months now, since Mr. S. B. Chavan's translation to Bombay, he has been holding

"additional" charge of home. Contrary to general expectation, he has not been asked to look after the crucial portfolio on a lasting basis. Instead, as the most important move in the present exercise, Mr. Buta Singh has been shifted to home. In this crucial position what kind of an equation he will have with the minister of state for internal security, Mr. Arun Nehru, or, for that matter, with the Barnala ministry in Punjab the Centre is determined to support, time alone can tell. Mr. Buta Singh's portfolio of agriculture and rural development has gone to Mr. Dhillon, one of the only two new entrants into the cabinet. The other, Mr. Mufti Mohammed Sayed, will hold charge of tourism which has been taken away from the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat. Whether the Mufti has the stature and seniority to be a cabinet minister is open to doubt, especially in view of the fact that Mr. Chandra Shekhar Singh, a former chief minister of Bihar, is still a minister of state and Mr. Brahm Dutt, a former finance minister of U.P., has just been made minister of state for commerce. The only thing that can be said in favour of the Mufti's elevation is that this would avert the disaster of a Congress ministry being formed in Jammu and Kashmir under his leadership with the support of the 14 defectors who had left the National Conference in July 1984 along with Mr. G. M. Shah.

The 10 junior ministers inducted into the council of ministers are a mixed bag. Some are totally dark horses while the merits and demerits of others are well known. Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, who becomes minister of state for external affairs, has taken a sustained interest in foreign affairs. Mr. K. K. Tewari's forte, however, is intemperate attack on the government's critics. Whether this qualifies him to be minister of state for public enterprises is a moot point. From Assam Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev has been made a minister of state and from Gujarat Mr. B. K. Gadhvi. Mrs. Sushila Rohatgi has been moved to power—to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Arif Mohammed Khan's resignation—from education and culture almost immediately after she had been made the chairperson of the Festival of India in the Soviet Union. This responsibility now falls on Mrs. Krishna Sahi, one of the three new ministers of state from Bihar.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1768

INDIA

APPEAL TO AMEND OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT REJECTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 May 86 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 15.

The Government has rejected the recommendation made by the Second Press Commission for amending the Official Secrets Act, Mr. V. N. Gadgil, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, announced in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

The recommendation for setting up a newspaper development commission to facilitate the growth of the Indian language newspapers and small and medium newspapers has also been rejected.

The Government's decisions on a total of 278 recommendations of the Commission were placed in the Rajya Sabha on the last day of its budget session.

A ministerial committee went into the report submitted in 1982. Mr. Gadgil said the Government accepted in full or in part, or in principle, 91 recommendations. Seventy-seven other recommendations had been duly noted and referred to the State Governments, the Union Territories and press bodies for consideration and appropriate action. Forty-eight recommendations had not been found expedient. Thirty-six required further detailed examination by Ministries and other departments and it has been decided to set up an expert committee to go into 26 recommendations.

Mr. Gadgil made the following points:

The Government shared the Commission's view that advertisements should not be used as a means of financial support to newspapers as it is liable to be misused. The Centre has already taken steps in this direction. However, it has not been considered necessary that the advertisement policy should be announced every year.

Assistance to news agencies: The Government agreed with the recommendation that it should provide to the extent possible assistance to news agencies in maintaining their operations as well as correspondents abroad.

It has accepted the suggestion for the amendment of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, for streamlining the procedures for clearance of titles of news publications and authentication of their declarations by the dis-

trict magistrates. It has agreed to amend the Act so as to provide specifically that the district magistrate should record his reasons before cancelling the declaration of a newspaper.

The Government felt that there is no need to amend the Act to provide for a fixed tenure for the Press Registrar.

The Government has felt that the recommendation as to how the editor's authority should be exercised, and to insulate the editorial staff from undue or improper interference by the proprietors can be appropriately considered by the press itself.

Codification of legislatures' privileges: The recommendations in regard to the need for codification of privileges of Parliament and the State Legislatures in the interest of freedom of the press shall be brought to the notice of the presiding officers of Parliament and the State Legislatures.

It did not accept the recommendations for setting up an autonomous corporation to deal with Government advertisements by splitting the DAVP.

The release of advertisements and the fixation of advertisement rates were being done in accordance with well-laid down guidelines. It was felt that setting up an autonomous corporation in the public sector for the purpose would not ensure greater impartiality, rationality and objectivity.

Price-page schedule: The Government considers it necessary that in view of the judicial pronouncements on the subject and other complexities involved, an expert committee may be set up to go into the question of working out a price-page schedule and news-to-advertisement ratio.

Similarly, the question of delinking the ownership of the press from business houses would also be referred to an expert committee.

Among the recommendations that required further detailed examination by different Ministries related to access to the press, the law of defamation, the problem of multiple publications, the right to privacy and facilities for the newspaper establishments and journalists. — PTI

/9317

CSO: 4600/1770

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT, SCORE ORDINANCE ON PROBE INFORMATION

Ordinance Stipulations

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 May 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 15.—The President today promulgated an Ordinance through which the Government assumed powers to withhold reports of Commissions of Inquiry from Parliament or State legislatures in the interest of the country's security and integrity, reports PTL.

The Ordinance amends Section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952. This Section requires the Government to lay the report of a Commission of Inquiry before the Lok Sabha or a Legislative Assembly, as the case may be, within a period of six months.

The Ordinance provides for dispensing with this requirement if the Government is satisfied that in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public interest it is not expedient to do so, and to that effect issues a notification in the official gazette.

Every such notification has to be laid for approval of the legislature within a stipulated period as indicated in the Ordinance.

The inquiry reports, which are yet to be published, include those

of Justice Ranganath Commission on the November 1984 riots, the Thakkar Commission on the Indira Gandhi assassination case and the commission on the Punjab-Haryana boundary dispute.

FRAUD ON PARLIAMENT

The noted lawyers, Mr Ram Jethmalani and Mr P. N. Lakshmi, tonight criticized the Ordinance.

They said the move would "prejudice" the hearing of the appeals filed in Delhi High Court by convicts in the Indira Gandhi assassination case.

Mr Jethmalani, who today accepted the briefs of Kehar Singh and Balbir Singh, said the "Ordinance is a fraud on Parliament and ultra vires" as it "trampled" the citizen's right to know.

Mr Lakshmi said the Government promulgated the Ordinance to "prevent" the Thakkar Commission report from being made public.

Action Contrary to Democratic Spirit

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 May 86 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

In keeping with its practice in the past, the Union government has used the adjournment of Parliament to promulgate an ordinance. This, as has been pointed out more than once in these columns, constitutes an abridgement of the powers of Parliament and is, therefore, contrary to the spirit of parliamentary democracy. When Parliament is not in session, the government can legitimately use its powers to issue an ordinance only in the event of an unexpected emergency. In the present case no emergency can be said to have arisen suddenly. Indeed, in question must be not only the manner in which the government has armed itself with certain powers but also the purpose for which it has done so. This purpose is to withhold from Parliament any report by a commission of inquiry which the government decides should not be publicised in the interest of the country's security and integrity, friendly relations with foreign governments and so on. The government has, of course, not said which inquiry report or reports it might want to keep away from Parliament and the people. But it does not require much imagination to guess which it or these might be. It could be either the Thakar Commission's report on Mrs. Indira Gandhi's assassination or the Mishra Commission's on anti-Sikh riots in various towns in the first week of November 1984 or both.

Depending on the findings of the two commissions, the publication of their reports can be embarrassing to the government. Imagine, for instance, the Thakar Commission concluding that a foreign agency was indeed involved in the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi or the Mishra Commission holding that the anti-Sikh riots were in fact engineered. In both cases, there is an additional danger. The finding may not be based on evidence which can be fully substantiated or sourced. So it is understandable that the government wishes to play safe. However it just cannot do so. Having set up the two commissions, it has no alternative but to make their reports public. The people want to know the truth in both cases; they cannot be fobbed off with the vague talk of public or national interests.

In the case of the Thakar Commission, the government has been following a strangely contradictory course of action. Even before the commission had submitted an interim report or otherwise made its preliminary findings known to those in authority, the latter allowed the Indira Gandhi murder trial to begin. The trial meant either that the government had concluded that the assassination was wholly the handiwork of the three accused put up for trial and Beant Singh who had been shot dead, or that it was not interested in widening the scope of the inquiry. In plain terms, it should have either not initiated the trial or wound up the Thakar Commission. It followed the reverse course.

It went ahead with the trial and it kept the Thakar Commission in being. Thus it took up the position that investigations were at once complete and incomplete. The trial court convicted the three accused — Satwant Singh, Kehar Singh and Balbir Singh — on the basis of its interpretation of the evidence before it. The interpretation is open to question. That is precisely why the matter is before the Delhi High Court. But what if the Thakar Commission comes up with evidence which casts new light on the assassination? The suppression of such evidence can mean miscarriage of justice. No wonder, counsel for the accused have criticised the ordinance. But the issue is even more fundamental. How could the trial of the accused begin and be concluded before the investigations had been completed, not by the local police in this case but by the Thakar Commission which is charged with the task and is assisted by a special team of ace police officers? And how can the Delhi High Court proceed with the appeal unless it is posted fully with the facts of the case? The government can argue that the crime of the accused has been established independently of the existence or non-existence of a large conspiracy only if it is satisfied that the second has no bearing on the first. But that is to anticipate the Thakar Commission's report. In any case, its non-publication will ensure that the issue of connection or lack of connection between the crime of the accused and the larger conspiracy, if any, will never be clinched in the public mind.

As for the Mishra Commission, it was set up by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi against his better judgment under pressure from the Sikh community which is by and large convinced that the riots were instigated by people in authority. This was part of his effort to reassure the Sikhs that he was not interested in suppressing the truth and protecting the guilty, however highly placed. Surely this purpose cannot be achieved if the impression spreads that the Commission's own report may be suppressed. It may or may not be suppressed. But under the new ordinance, it can be, and that is enough to feed the suspicions of the Sikh community.

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CSO: 4600/1769

INDIA

CHARAN SINGH'S SON ENTERS POLITICS, JOINS LOK DAL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 May 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 23.

THE succession issue in the Lok Dal took a significant turn today, with Mr. Ajit Singh, son of the ailing party president, Mr. Charan Singh, formally enrolling himself as a member of the party.

Mr. Singh, 46, has left his job as a computer consultant to a private firm to join politics with the obvious intention of succeeding his father as the party chief.

A vocal section of the party, led by the general secretary, Mr. S. P. Malaviya, had so far been trying to scotch speculation on this issue on the plea that Mr. Singh was not even a primary member of the Lok Dal.

It was, in fact, Mr. Malaviya himself who enthusiastically informed newsmen today about Mr. Ajit Singh's joining the party. He added, significantly enough, that Mr. Singh's entry had been "wholeheartedly welcomed by all workers and sympathisers of the party."

SHOW OF SUPPORT

Mr. Singh now needs to help enrol 20 new members to be eligible for holding a party post. Informed circles believe that he will be brought to the Rajya Sabha from U.P. in the biennial elections next month to pave the way for his ascending to the party's top post. His appointment as working president or acting president is, however, being ruled out.

The demand for the party's reins to be handed over to Mr. Charan Singh's son was raised by an influential section of the Lok Dal's U.P. and Haryana units. He is considered to be the most

acceptable choice in the Jat-dominated party.

Some Lok Dal activists had staged a demonstration in support of Mr. Ajit Singh at the party's central office here yesterday when a crucial meeting of the frontline leaders was in progress.

The meeting, presided over by the vice-president, Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, and attended by 25 senior national and state level leaders, decided that organisational polls, including the election of the new president, would be completed by December 31.

The last date for enrolment of new members would not be extended beyond the present limit of July 31 to that the other formalities for holding the organisational polls could be gone through well in time.

Meanwhile, the condition of the octogenarian Lok Dal chief, Mr. Charan Singh, who was admitted to the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here after having been treated in the United States, is said to be stable though he is not showing much improvement. The chances of his return to active politics are deemed remote.

The party's national leadership at yesterday's meeting upheld the expulsion of Mr. Bhim Singh Dhaliya, general secretary of the Haryana unit, from the Lok Dal.

It decided to call some of the state MLAs here to listen to their grievances in the wake of the controversy arising out of the appointment and removal of Mr. Devi Lal's son as the coordinator of the Haryana unit. Mr. Devi Lal was present when the Haryana issue was discussed.

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CSO: 4600/1788

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON BHARATIYA JANATA PLENARY SESSION

Advani Opening Speech Reported

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 May 86 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 9--Addressing the plenary session of the Bharatiya Janata Party after taking over as its president here today, Mr L.K. Advani demanded a uniform civil code as envisaged in Article 44 of the Constitution.

He suggested the Law Commission should "undertake a special exercise" to examine the various personal laws in vogue in the country, identify the fair and equitable ingredients in these laws, prepare a draft uniform code on this basis and throw it open for a national debate.

He described the Muslim Women's Bill as "an unforgivable assault on the Constitution." In his 33-page presidential address he said: "The Muslim Women's Bill runs counter to this Directive Principle (Art 44), violates Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, and besides, disrupts the existing uniformity in the field of criminal law.

"History will never forgive this Government for the fact that when a debate ensued within the Indian Muslim community and a sizable section espoused the cause of social reform and a fair deal for women, this Government sided with the fanatics: How ironic that between an Arif and an Ansari, the "21st century" Prime Minister has chosen to lock arms with the Ansari who is still in the Middle Ages."

Yet another forgotten Directive Principle required the State to protect the cow which is "the spinal chord of India's rural economy." He said Mahatma Gandhi also thought it was important. It was "tragic" that three million cows are allowed to be slaughtered every year, half of them for export, mostly to West Asia. The mass slaughter should be checked as cows and bullocks were vital to India's economy.

Mr Advani said that theocracy was alien to Indian political history. The State had always been a civil institution which respected all religious equally and made no distinction between one citizen and another on grounds of religion. "It is this positive concept of secularism to

which BJP subscribes." The BJP would not allow electoral expediency to dilute its commitments. Communalism, whether of the majority or of the minority, was bad.

When two months ago more than 45 Hindu temples were destroyed in the Kashmir Valley and there was large-scale destruction of property, not a single party in the country except the BJP raised its voice of protest. This gave the word secularism a bad odour.

The latest phase of violence in Punjab had a "sinister objective"--to provoke communal clashes to force panic-stricken Hindus out of Punjab and compel Sikhs outside to migrate to the State. This, they think, would be a major demographic step towards the creation of "Khalistan."

To foil this conspiracy the terrorists should be severely dealt with. Elements in the Government as well as in the ruling party including with the extremists must be ruthlessly weeded out.

Mr Advani said: "My party feels that President's rule and/or Army rule should only be a last resort."

He wanted Sikhs all over the country to be made to feel absolutely secure. The Centre must take all steps to seal the border and curb Pakistan's potential for mischief.

Article 370

Mr Advani demanded that Article 370 be repealed. If Parliament decided by a two-thirds majority, all that was needed to remove the temporary provision from the Constitution was endorsement by the Jammu and Kashmir Governor who now had the powers of both the legislature and the Chief Minister.

Mr Advani said the new Prime Minister was soft-spoken and amiable. While Mrs Gandhi's relations with the Opposition were strained, there had been a perceptible thaw, and never before had there been so meaningful a Government Opposition get-together as during the past 19 months.

But all this was a difference only of style, not of substance as the Opposition's views were disregarded.

The Centre should initiate legislation to implement the Assam accord. The problem also affected all border States, including West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. "It seriously jeopardizes national security."

Political Vacuum

Mr Advani spoke of a political vacuum because of the internal problems in the Congress (I).

The No 2 man in Mrs Gandhi's Government had been expelled from the ruling party and three other senior leaders suspended. "This is a sorry state of affairs," he said. The expulsions and suspensions were a panicky reaction to a developing crisis.

After the 1975 Opposition agitation and Emergency, it took two years to change the Government but "now it may take only one year," Mr Advani said.

In this scenario many people wanted a two-party system in the country--another party which could replace the ruling party. Although desirable, it was not always feasible.

Leaders of the Opposition could not bring their parties together from their summit level talks. Work for a joint front had to be done on the ground.

He said that for the BJP the computer was not a god but man was. Nor did the party give priority to television.

President's Office

Mr Advani deplored devaluation of the President's office. The Prime Minister should show respect to the President and observe conventions. The Prime Minister was losing direction, he said.

Mr Advani praised Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee from whom he took over as party president and said an opinion poll had revealed that Mr Vajpayee was an alternative to the Prime Minister.

Mr Vajpayee said earlier that although he was retiring as president he would continue to be an active worker.

In the vast Indraprastha Indoor Stadium where the BJP began its plenary session today, the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Jayaprakash Naryan and Shyama Prasad Mookharjee stood behind the platform.

In view of Tagore's 125th birth anniversary, one of the poet's compositions was sung before Mr Vajpayee's speech.

10 Features

PTI adds: Mr Advani described the BJP as a "party with a difference" and listed its 10 distinct features. They were: commitment to "unalloyed" nationalism, uniform civil code, ban on cow slaughter, positive secularism, "genuine" non-alignment, abrogation of Article 370 on the status of Kashmir, radical overhaul of the electoral system, promotion of labour intensive industries, primacy to agriculture and self-reliant economy.

UNI adds: The BJP will observe a "national integration fortnight" from June 23. The party appears to have abandoned the idea of uniting the Opposition parties. In an interview, Mr Advani said: "We are now fully conscious of the limits of politics of aggregation."

Elaborate and tight security arrangements have been made in and around the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium (Indraprasta estate) renamed "Ekatmata Nagar" for the duration of the session.

10 May Session, Draft Resolution

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 11 May 86 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 10--The BJP claimed in a draft resolution that the Government had failed dismally and the "state of the union is alarming." The party's national executive today sent the draft resolution to the plenary session for debate and approval tomorrow.

The Government was elected principally on the plank of national unity, yet this unity was in grave peril now, it said. National integration is the theme of the session which ends tomorrow.

The draft resolution said that public relations men "can get a person catapulted into the office of Prime Minister but cannot make him deliver the goods."

It added: "Punjab continues to seethe with terrorism and violence. The accord is in the doldrums...Haryana is impatient about its water needs. The completion of the link canal is nowhere in sight."

"In Jammu and Kashmir, anti-national elements have been on the rampage indulging in violence and vandalism."

"Five of seven States and Union Territories in the country's north-eastern region are in the grip of rebel groups determined to tear the country apart. These rebel groups reportedly met a no man's land on the Indo-Burmese border last year and floated the idea of setting up an autonomous State comprising the terrain between the Brahmaputra and the Chindwin (Burma) rivers.

"The plan is to establish what is called the Brachin National Union to fight for an independent country comprising Nagaland, Manipur, Mizora, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, the tribal-dominated areas of Tripura, some areas of Assam and the entire Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

"Communal tension is building up all over the country. Infiltration... continues in Assam, but Bangladesh has pressured us into abandoning the construction of a protective fence on our own territory. The writ of the Government just does not run and our sovereignty in that area cannot assert itself."

"There is a large-scale infiltration into the country, through Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar, Bengal, Assam and the north-eastern States, which poses a serious threat to the integrity and unity of the country. In several of these border States smuggling and spying have assumed grave dimensions."

"Law and order presents a dismal picture throughout the length and breadth of the country. Private armies and armed gangs are sprouting up all over. Parts of Bihar and U.P. have become areas of total lawlessness. The police have become a law unto themselves. Private scores are settled by mayhem and murder at police stations and in false encounters. The judicial system is paralysed and is crumbling."

"Despite adverse court verdicts Jagmohans and Arjun Singhs continued to enjoy patronage and protection," the draft resolution said.

"The communal divide is systematically encouraged and sought to be consolidated by the ruling party for political reasons."

Kerala

In Kerala, the Muslim League is running the Government. It is really the Government of the Muslim League of which Mr Karunakaran of the Congress (I) is the nominal leader," it said.

The party said this country "does deserve a better Government. The BJP pledges itself to work for such a Government by a sustained and vigorous campaign of political education about the failings of the present Government."

Gandhian Socialism

The BJP plenary session today overruled moves by some of its delegates to reject Gandhian Socialism, now one of its major economic tenets.

Mr Satish Agarwal, a former Deputy Finance Minister in the Janata Government, who had earlier moved the economic policy statement, said that Gandhian Socialism was an "accepted policy of the party" and could not, therefore, be reversed. He rejected the suggestions for its deletion with "utmost contempt."

Mr Agarwal said the BJP sought to present an alternative and a better economic programme than the Congress (I). The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr Raja Ram (U.P.), had urged that the BJP should dissociate itself from Gandhian Socialism. He had said that it was a vague phrase with no precise connotations.

The rejection of this amendment means that, as originally planned, the BJP stands for both Gandhian Socialism and integral humanism of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

Gandhian Socialism and integral humanism were not different and advocated a system based on bread, freedom and equality, the resolution said.

While not rejecting scientific advancement, it said that "we must adapt modern technology to suit our own requirements and national aptitude."

Communism, it said, came as a reaction to the "evils of capitalism but succeeded in changing only the masters."

The capitalist economy, with competition as its sole regulator, had created "a society full of distortions and exploitation." The BJP's answer to these was a decentralized economy.

25-Point Programme

The party adopted a 25-point economic programme with right to work as a fundamental right of the people.

The BJP said the new economic policy of the Government, in the name of modernization and application of latest technology, "is introducing a highly capital-intensive pattern of development." The "open door" policy in import liberalization "has led to a staggering balance of trade deficit of about Rs 10,000 crores during 1985-83--a record deficit in the post-Independence period," it said.

The BJP accepted an amendment seeking to raise the upper age limit for women candidates for Government and other services to 35 years.

Report on Final Session

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 May 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 11

The three day second plenary session of the Bharatiya Jnata Party concluded here today with a resolve to revive the party's distinct image at the grassroots as "the symbol of nationalism" committed to decentralized economy and the spirit of "swadeshi". The party adopted a separate resolution on "national integration" pledging to protect the integrity of the "motherland". The resolution called for raising "politics to a moral pedestal" as a prerequisite to the promotion of national unity threatened by "fundamentalists and fanatics".

The party called upon its rank and file to protect the country from the dangers of disintegration, adding that it was the trail blazed by Dr. B.R. Prasad Mookerji, the founder of the party, which the BJP has "inherited and is under oath to continue".

Subversion: Referring to the problem of insurgency in the north east and similar problems in other border States like West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP said all this has the ominous ring of a well planned conspiracy to subvert the country's demographic balance in border areas. The bloody happenings of Sri Lanka also threatened to spill over into India, the resolution on national integration said.

Three major issues resurrected from the Jana Sangh programme, which the party has decided to highlight, are the demand for abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution—granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir—a uniform civil code and ban on cow slaughter. These issues figured prominently in the speeches of important leaders during the deliberations, the tone for which was set by Mr. L. K. Advani in his presidential address.

The issue of the party's links with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was not raised by many delegates as according to party circles, members by and large appeared to be satisfied with the new thrust which they feel is closer to the one in the Jana Sangh days.

Links with RSS justified: A reference to this question was, however, made by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, who handed over charge of the party's presidency to Mr. Advani, in his opening remarks in which he justified the BJP member's connections with the RSS.

According to party circles Mr. Advani, in his new team to be announced tomorrow, is likely to induct new faces, many of them known for their strong RSS connections.

The BJP made a direct attack on the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, saying that his Government lacked maturity and was incapable of delivering goods. There were wide gaps between what it professed and practised. "The country deserves a better government", the resolution on the political situation said adding: "The

BJP pledges itself to work for such a government by a sustained and vigorous campaign."

Unconstitutional bill: The BJP vice president, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, who moved the resolution, urged the President Mr. Zail Singh to withhold assent to the "unconstitutional" Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill and send it back to Parliament for reconsideration. Another option available to the President—if Parliament again approved the measure—would be to ask the Government to refer it to the Supreme Court for experts' opinion.

The party expressed strong disapproval of the emergence of caste and class based private armies in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and demanded that they be banned. It condemned the demand for the creation of a separate Koina State in south Bihar and said it was the handiwork of separatist forces.

Vajpayee for Rajya Sabha: Mr. Vajpayee is to be the party's nominee for the biennial election to the Rajya Sabha falling vacant in June—from Madhya Pradesh.—PTI, UNI

New Secretaries Appointed

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 May 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 12.—Mr L. K. Advani, new president of the BJP, today appointed four new general secretaries of the party to fill an office he held alone since 1980 when the BJP was formed.

He replaced three of the six vice-presidents, appointed five new all India secretaries and 15 new members to the national executive of 37. The names of two new special invitees from Karnataka and Kerala were announced. The new officebearers and executive members are a good mix of RSS and non-RSS people.

The four new general secretaries of the party are Mr Kedar Nath Sahni, former president of the Delhi unit, Dr Manohar Joshi (U.P.), a former general secretary of the Jana Sangh, Mr Krishanlal Sharma and 35-year-old Mr Pramod Mahajan, youth leader from Maharashtra.

While Mr S. S. Bhandari (Gujarat), Mr Sikandar Bakht (Delhi) and Mr Ram Jethmalani (Maharashtra) continue to be vice-presidents, the three new ones to join them are Mr K. S. Thakre (Madhya Pradesh), Mr K. Jana Krishna Murthy (Tamil Nadu) and Dr Baldev Prakash (Punjab).

The three outgoing vice-presidents, Mrs Vijaya Raje Scindia, Mr K. S. Hegde and Mr Jagannath Rao Joshi, remain as the first members of the party executive just below Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the out-

going party president. Mr Advani proposes to assign special responsibilities to them and several others in cells and fronts of the party. Mrs Scindia is already active in the women's movement.

Mr V. K. Malhotra (Delhi) and Mr Arif Baig (Madhya Pradesh) continue to be secretaries while the five new ones are Mr Suraj Bhan and Mrs Sushma Swara (both Haryana), Mr O. Rajagopal (Kerala), Mr Ashwin Kumar (Bihar) and Mr Makrand Desai (Gujarat). The new treasurer is Mr Ved Prakash Goyal of Maharashtra in place of Mr Shantil Bhushan, who has left the BJP.

Among the new members on the executive are Mr Viren J. Shah, the industrialist, Mr H. S. Sheth, a former judge, Mr C. Janga Reddy, the party's sole member in the Lok Sabha and Dr Anandeshwar Baribakar from Assam.

Delhi being a stronghold of the party it has a good hold on several offices, though southern and north-eastern States have also been given representation.

While Mr B. Harichandan is the member from Orissa on the national executive, the West Bengal representative is Mr Vishankant Shastri.

CPI Scores Stand

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 May 86 p 6

JPRS-NEA-86-018
26 June 1986

[Text]

The Communist Party of India has strongly criticised the demand voiced by the Bharatiya Janata Party at its plenary session for repealing Article 370 of the Constitution under which the State of Jammu and Kashmir enjoys a special status.

CPI general secretary C Rajeswara Rao on Saturday described the BJP stand as "extremely sinister, anti-democratic and utterly communal".

Mr Rao said in a press statement that BJP's call to scrap Article 370 amounted to undermining of national integration and provided grist to the mill of secessionist forces in the sensitive border State.

Demanding immediate dissolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and installation of a popular government by holding elections, Mr Rao also alleged that the Congress was contemplating to form its government there with the help of the same elements.

This was evident from the fact that the State Assembly had been kept in suspended animation instead of being dissolved. This fact was also borne out by some of the recent statements and speeches of the State Congress president Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, he alleged.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1767

INDIA

JANATA PRESIDENT MAKES CHANGES IN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 May 86 p 1

[Text]

Re-elected Janata Party president Chandra Shekhar has effected drastic changes in organisational set-up and the national executive, dropping all general secretaries and secretaries and inducting totally new faces.

Veteran George Fernandes, Syed Shahabuddin, Dr Bapu Kaldate and Dr Sarojini Mahishi all have been removed from general secretaryship. The new inductions include Mr Indu Bhai Patel, to whom Mr Chandra Shekhar had unsuccessfully tried to instal as the new party president, Mr Anantram Jaiswal, Mr Yashwant Sinha, Mr Bhai Vaidya and Mr Jaipal Reddy, MP.

A surprise inclusion is Mr Yashwant Sinha, who joined the party only a year ago after resigning from the IAS cadre. His has been the fastest rise in the party, observers note.

Youth leaders Mr Subodh Kant (Bihar), Mr Bhakta Charan Das (Orissa) and Mr M A Lari (UP) are the three new secretaries of the party appointed by Mr Chandra Shekhar on Sunday.

Mr Chandra Shekhar has also effected large-scale changes in the 43-member national executive. Besides the four former general secretaries, Karnataka Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde, Lok Sabha MP Madhu Dandavate, Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Chiman Bhai Patel, Mr Ravindra Varma, Mr Surendra Mohan, Mr Krishna Kant, Mr M S Gurupadaswamy, Dr Shanti Patel, Mrs Mrinal Gore and former Bihar Chief Minister Ram Sundar Das have been retained as national executive members.

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CSO: 4600/1777

INDIA

WRITER TELLS TROUBLES OF DROUGHT-HIT RAJASTHAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 May 86 p 8

[Text]

JAIPUR (PTI).

MORE than 20 million people in Rajasthan are reeling under acute drought this year following failure of monsoon for the third consecutive year.

Economically shattered by the loss of the kharif crop, the people are facing the serious problem of drinking water. With the advent of summer the drinking water sources in most parts of the state have gone dry.

The underground water table at several places has also gone precariously down, a correspondent, who visited several areas in the state, noted.

A total of 26,856 villages in 26 of the 27 districts have already been declared scarcity-affected by the state government.

The government is providing employment to about 700,000 people on the famine relief works and trying to make alternative arrangements for supplying drinking water to the drought-affected people.

DESERTED HAMLETS

The correspondent, who visited the drought-affected tribal and desert areas, saw a dismal scenario of hundreds of square kilometres of parched and barren land having no sign of vegetation. Village tanks had either gone completely dry or if there was any water in them, it was just not potable.

The small hamlets wore a deserted look with the men going out in search of jobs and women in search of drinking water.

In a village near Ajolai in the desert district of Jodhpur, a large number of women were seen coming from distant places to fill a pitcher with drinking

water. They waited for their turn on a tap, connected with the regional water supply scheme.

Some of them complained that water trickled out of the tap only twice in a week and that also not on fixed days.

The situation in the tribal belt, particularly in Udaipur, Banswara and Dungarpur, is very serious where degradation of forests, due to indiscriminate cutting of trees, has aggravated the problem.

WATER TABLE

In the past, the tribals in the hilly terrain, where there is not much scope for agriculture, had survived the drought and famine with the help of the rich forest wealth, which provided them nutritional vegetation.

Hand pumps are the only reliable source of drinking water in some areas as other sources have gone dry. However, the steep decline in the underground water table has rendered up to 20 per cent of the total hand pumps useless.

According to the collector of Dungarpur, Mr. Ravi Mathur, even the Dungarpur city water sources had gone dry.

The tribal development commissioner at Udaipur, Mr. M. L. Mehta, said more than 2,000 villages in the tribal belt were facing a drinking water problem.

But, he said, there was no dearth of foodgrains for the public distribution system. Several measures were being initiated to overcome the drinking water problem, which included digging and deepening of 15,000 wells in the tribal districts.

100 MORE TANKERS

To meet the drinking water shortage in the desert areas in the coming

month, 100 more tankers had been purchased to supplement the existing fleet of 115 tankers, according to officials in Jaipur.

The sources said digging of thousands of wells or for fitting with hand pumps, revival of traditional source supply schemes and energisation of tubewells were among the other measures being employed for enhancing the drinking water supply in scarcity-hit areas.

Each panchayat samiti in the state has been sanctioned at least one relief work, the emphasis this time being on taking up works of permanent nature.

Various steps have also been taken to save the cattle wealth, which forms the mainstay of the desert region's economy.

CROP DAMAGE

For the first time migration of cattle — a regular phenomenon during famine — has been diverted to the Rajasthan canal areas, where adequate arrangements for drinking water and fodder have been made.

About 250,000 head of cattle have already reached the canal area.

The failure of monsoon rains has caused extensive damage to the kharif crop which is estimated to be only 1.47 million tonnes this year against 3.6 million tonnes last year.

The state government has proposed to the Centre an outlay of Rs. 580 crores to face the drought situation.

The Centre, in turn, has granted a ceiling of Rs. 40.26 crores for relief works up to March 1986 and another Rs. 39.56 crores up to July, 1986.

The Centre has also provided 500,000 tonnes of wheat to the state, which is being distributed among the relief labourers as wages.

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CSO: 4600/1791

INDIA

TRIPURA UNHAPPY WITH APPROACH TOWARD TRIBAL PROBLEM

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 18 May 86 p 9

[Text] Agartala, May 17--The ruling Left Front is apparently unhappy with the Centre's "insincere approach" towards the problem of tribal influx into Tripura from the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

The State Government wanted the Centre to send an official team here to assess the situation and take up the matter with Dhaka at the highest level.

Mr Baldyanath Mazumdar, the State's Minister for PWD, had earlier alleged that at one stage the Centre had suggested to push back the evacuees but the Tripura Government could find no alternative but to shelter them not only on humanitarian ground but also in anticipation of an adverse reaction among the State's ethnic population.

The Chief Minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, is in Moscow at present for his treatment and the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Dasarath Dev, is also ailing for nearly two weeks.

Mr Mazumdar said that the Centre was yet to send an official team nor has any assurance been given by the Centre regarding funds to provide relief to the evacuees. In 1981 the State Government had to spend Rs 53 lakhs for extending relief to the Chakma evacuees against the Central reimbursement of only Rs 30 lakhs, he said.

The Governor, Mr K.V. Krishna Rao, during his recent visit to the relief camps in the South district was believed to have assured the refugees that the Government under no circumstances would force them to leave the camps.

Meanwhile, 20 Buddhist monks appealed to the Prime Minister through the All India Chakma Cultural Conference not to push back the evacuees unless their security was guaranteed by the Dhaka authorities. They have alleged that armed gangs of the Muslim resettlers, being backed by the Bangladesh armed force, hacked Shri Purnanda Bhikshu, the chief of the Kalanal Buddha Vihar, to death in the Hargarachari region of the Chittagong Hill Tracts on April 30.

At least 50 Buddhist Chakmas and other tribals were killed, 26 village and 12 Buddhist temples were burnt down by the armed non-tribals at Pujagangmukh, Tolegang, Rangapani, Karalchhera, Niharbindupara, Golokpatima, Kalanal, Panchheri and the Chhota Panohher areas of the Hill Tracts on April 30 and May 1, they said.

A seminar was organized by the Information Department of the State Government at Hooghly Zilla Parishad hall in Chinsurah on Thursday. Mr Provash Fadikar, Minister for Information and Cultural affairs, stressed the need for an independent Press, says our correspondent.--FOC

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CSO: 4600/1779

INDIA

CONGRESS-I ELECTIONS POSTPONED IN BENGAL, OTHER STATES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 May 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 15.—The Congress (I)'s organizational elections have had to be put off in at least three States—Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal—in spite of the party leadership's efforts to have these elections after a lapse of 14 years.

In most of the remaining States the prospects of holding the elections are beset with the problem of bogus membership, though the leadership has claimed that this is not insurmountable, asking: "Whenever in the past have we not come up with the issue of bogus members on party polls?"

Thus, as of now, there appears to be a determination to complete the elections up to the highest level, that is including the election of the president, by August 2.

The West Bengal Pradesh Congress (I) secretary, Mr. Sadhan Pandey, M.L.A., stated today that the organizational elections in the State had been postponed because the party members were now engaged in contesting the coming municipal elections to be held on June 18.

'WORKERS BUSY'

As the entire party has been geared to face the elections to 73 municipalities (equivalent to 73 Assembly seats), "which are most crucial and a prelude to the Assembly elections to be held in early 1987", he said in a statement, the party workers would remain busy to have the voters' list brought up to date for the Assembly elections.

With all this involvement, the time schedule of the organizational elections will have to be rescheduled, he said. Mr. Pradey met Mr. Arjun Singh, M.P. and Vice-President of the AIUC (I), and discussed the organizational problems of the State party unit. Mr. Pandey informed

Mr. Arjun Singh that an understanding had been achieved at the State level among all the factions to face the CPI(M), and especially to organize a massive demonstration which would be held in Calcutta in front of Writers' Buildings on May 21 "against the anti-people policies of the Left Front Government in the State".

Mr. Pradyot Guha, West Bengal Youth Congress (I) president, today constituted the State unit of the Youth Congress (I), appointed nine vice-presidents, 11 general secretaries, 11 joint secretaries and 11 organizing secretaries, besides 43 executive committee members and presidents of the district bodies.

The vice-presidents are: Mr. Pranab Bose, Mr. Prabuddha Laha, Mr. Sultan Ahmed, Mr. Devendra Chatterjee, Mr. Devu Chatterjee, Mr. Shankar Malakar, Mr. Tapas Banerjee, Mr. Soral Guha and Mr. Ashish Mukherjee.

General secretaries: Mr. Tanus Por, Mr. Madan Mitra, Mr. Dulal Ghosh, Mr. Ashish Chakravarti, Mr. Partha Chatterjee, Mr. Malay Choudhary, Mr. Anay Gonal Sinha, Miss Snigdha Dev, Mr. Wallur Rehman and Mr. Dilip Das.

Treasurer: Mr. Ashish Pakhira.

Joint Secretaries: Mr. Snehas Choudhry, Mr. Anrudha Adhikari, Mr. Tapas Chakravarti, Mr. Sahil Iman, Mr. Ganesh Ghosh, Mr. Harwanth Tiwari, Mr. Vijay Singh, Mr. Maharak Hussain, Mr. Subrata Bakshi, Miss Krishna Datta and Mr. Babua Sengupta.

Organizing Secretaries: Mr. Anup Pal, Mr. Shiba Bose, Mr. Mrityunjay Mishra, Mr. Kanak Debnath, Mr. Shivprasad Datta, Mr. Mohammed Arif, Mr. D. K. Bontem, Mr. Tanu nash Ghosh, Mr. Om Prakash Mishra, Mr. Nitish Datta and Mr. Sujit Sarkhel.

INDIA

CHITTAGONG HILLS UNREST CAUSE OF BORDER TENSION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 May 86 p 9

[Text]

AGARTALA, May 12.—The escalating violence and seizure of lands which traditionally belong to the Buddhist Chakma, Mog, Tripuri and about 10 other tribal clans by the Muslim resettlers from the plains, supported by the authorities in Dhaka, are not only affecting the 600,000-strong ethnic population of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh but also causing continuous tension along Tripura's southern border.

Between September and December in 1981 some 20,000 tribal refugees had crossed over to villages in Southern Tripura from the Hill Tracts and many more were turned back by Bangladeshi and Indian border guards. The refugees had reported "full-scale military attacks" on them along with attacks by the lowland settlers.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was eventually able to negotiate the tribals' return to Bangladesh after a couple of months. It was also claimed, on their return most of them found their land already occupied by the settlers from the plains. Almost similar was the exodus in March 1977, December 1978, December 1979, June 1983. The trickling in of tribal families from the Hill Tracts into the Tripura and Mizoram areas in search of shelter and security is a regular feature of the last several years.

The entry routes along the border of the State's two southernmost subdivisions—Amarpur and Subanm—have been sealed temporarily by the Border Security Force this time to stop infiltration by the Buddhist evacuees. About 7,000 Chakma, Mog and Tripuri Tribals who earlier crossed over between April 29 and May 7 this year, were now staying in the South Tripura camps.

They have reported to the State officials about large scale violence and a massive operation by the Hill Tract villages on the other side of the border.

Mr Meghmal Chakma, chairman of the Taidong Union Parishad of the Hill Tracts and now an evacuee, wanted the State officials not to hand them over unless their security was guaranteed by the Bangladesh authorities.

At least 200 resettlers including men, women and children were killed, over 500 injured, 30 kidnapped and about 300 houses were burnt down by armed tribals who had launched a combined attack on the resettlers colonies at Bhuxanbhara under Barkal opzilla of the Rangamati District of the Hill Tracts on May 20, 1984. Despite the Dhaka Government's move to suppress the news, the incident was reported by an English daily from Dhaka on June 4 following a BBC coverage of the developments in the Hill Tracts two days ago. President Ershad blamed the armed insurgents of the Shanti Bahini for the massacre, and "an intensive combing operation" by the Army in the area had followed. The trouble sparked off following a court judgement passed on May

30 in which the resettlers were allowed possession over a plot of khas land despite stiff opposition from the local tribals.

The tribal political organization "Janasamhati Samity" which had emerged in 1972 to ventilate the Hill Tracts' demands, under the leadership of Mr Manabendra Lama is still deeply entrenched in the Hill Tracts. The Samity's underground guerrilla wing "Shanti Bahini" is now being led by Mr Jyotirindra Rodhipriya Lama following the assassination of his elder brother Manabendra Lama by the nationalist faction of the guerrillas headed by Mr Bhakutosh Debnath and Mr Prill Kumar Chakma on November 10, 1983. In fact the Janasamhati Samity was a clandestine front wing of the Communist Party of Rangamati when the late Manabendra Lama was known among followers for his racist bentness. Many among the nationalist guerrillas have surrendered to the Bangladesh Army and are now defying the present pro Left underground leadership.

After an estimated population of 52,000 Muslim families from the plains were given resettlement in the three districts in three separate phases since 1979, the ethnic composition in the Hill Tracts has been changed considerably. According to Bangladesh official records of 1981 the Buddhist and Hindu Tribals had then constituted 97.5% of the population. Currently the Buddhist and Muslims are representing about 83% and 45% respectively.

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CSO: 4600/1767

INDIA

KERALA MINISTER RESIGNS, STATE CABINET RESHUFFLED

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 17 May 86 p 1

[Text]

Trivandrum, May 16 (PTI): The Kerala home minister, Mr Vayalar Ravi, resigned from the state Cabinet today, protesting against the decision of the chief minister, Mr K. Karunakaran, to divest him of his portfolio in a major reshuffle effected today.

Though the exercise was to put an end to the six-month-old crisis in the ruling United Democratic Front (UDF), it has brought to the surface the simmering differences in the Congress(I), the leading partner of the alliance.

Apart from Mr Ravi, Mr Oommen Chandy, convener of the liaison committee of the UDF, has also resigned his post, apparently in protest against the chief minister's action. Mr Chandy is also deputy leader of the Congress(I) Legislature Party.

In the reshuffle effected according to the understanding reached among the three major UDF partners—the Congress(I), the IUML and the Kerala Congress—at Cochin on May 13, the chief minister took temporary charge of the home and finance portfolios.

The Congress(I) was the worst affected by the reshuffle. Apart from Mr Ravi losing his home portfolio, the portfolios of two

other Congress(I) ministers, Mr P.K. Velayudhan and Mr N. Sundaran Nadar, were also interchanged. The former becomes the new transport minister, and the latter holds charge of community development.

In exchange for the finance portfolio, Mr K.M. Mani (Kerala Congress) has been given irrigation, urban development, information and public health engineering, in addition to electricity and law and legislation already under him.

The two Kerala Congress ministers, Mr P.J. Joseph, in charge of revenue, and Mr T.M. Jacob, holding the education portfolio, remained unaffected in the reshuffle.

Though Mr C.M. Sundaram of the PSP had to shed the corporations and municipalities portfolio, he retained panchayats and was allotted the portfolio of dewaswom held by the chief minister.

According to certain unconfirmed reports, two other ministers belonging to the erstwhile Congress (Antony) faction, Mr K.P. Nuruddin, holding the forest portfolio, and Mr P.K. Velayudhan, who has been allotted the transport portfolio, have sought the Congress(I) high com-

mand's permission to resign.

Mr Ravi, who was home minister for the past four years, was assigned agriculture and animal husbandry.

Mr Ravi sent his resignation letter to the chief minister after the governor signed the communique on the reallocation of portfolios.

According to indications available here, there will be no major changes in the portfolios of the three ministers of the Indian Union Muslim League.

The chief minister, Mr K. Karunakaran, told newsmen that a successor to the former Congress(I) irrigation minister, Mr M.P. Gangadharan, who resigned in March last, will be inducted after the return of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, from his foreign tour.

The fate of the former electricity minister, Mr R. Balakrishna Pillai of the Kerala Congress, will be decided after getting legal opinion on the issue, the chief minister said.

In New Delhi, the AICC(I) leadership declined to comment on the resignation of Mr Ravi. The Congress(I) high command was trying to contact Mr Karunakaran to get the details of the development.

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CSO: 4600/1771

INDIA

ANALYST DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENTS IN TAMIL SITUATION

Team to Sri Lanka

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 May 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 17.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who has been keeping in close touch with the Sri Lankan developments over the hotline, asked Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, Mr. G. Parthasarathy and Mr. P. Chidambaram, to fly to Madras and brief the Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, on the latest developments and get his assessment of this explosive situation.

The three accordingly left for Madras by a special plane today and after a detailed discussion with MGR, returned to Delhi this afternoon to complete their evaluation of the new Sri Lankan proposals, before the Prime Minister's return on Monday morning from his Southern African visit.

The Government of India has been receiving reports of a military build-up on the borders of the Jaffna peninsula for a possible offensive against the Tamil militants in the northern province. The Sri Lankan Army is poised for an all-out showdown with the Tamil militants using any new act of 'terrorist' violence as a pretext for a pre-emptive attack on them.

Though it is highly unlikely that the ragtag Sri Lankan Army will be able to subdue the militants, the very fact that the militant groups are now engaged in fratricidal warfare is encouraging the hardliners in the Jayewardene Government to embark on this hazardous gamble. It is this aspect of the Sri Lankan situation that is causing grave concern in Delhi, in the wake of the Indian inability to obtain a more satisfactory peace package from Colombo that could serve as a reasonable basis for a negotiated settlement.

The big question that is facing the Government of India is how to get together a representative group of Tamil leaders to engage in a purposeful dialogue if Sri Lanka comes forward with the necessary simplifications to make the new formulations more acceptable to Tamil opinion.

So those entrusted with the task of evaluating the Sri Lankan proposals are veering round to the view of Mr. S. Thondaman that India should assume the responsibility of negotiating a fair and equitable settlement, instead of restricting its mediatory role to merely persuading the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil leaders to resume the dialogue on the basis of a broad understanding on the structure and content of the proposed devolution.

One of the sad features of this Sri Lankan tangle is that nobody in India, whether it be the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has any great influence at present on the refractory Tamil militant groups that are caught up inextricably in their own political rivalries and power struggles.

Worry over clashes

As it is almost impossible for either the Central or Tamil Nadu Governments to persuade them in the prevailing circumstances to sink their differences and join with the TULF in negotiating a reasonable settlement, the current Indian mediatory efforts are confined to obtaining the necessary clarifications from Colombo before deciding how to proceed with the next phase of this thankless exercise.

Those dealing with this highly complex problem in Delhi are naturally quite worried about the dangers of the armed clashes between rival Tamil militant groups in Northern Sri Lanka spilling over to their cadres in Tamil Nadu if they are unable to settle their differences without further bloodshed and bitter recrimination. It would be most unfortunate from India's point of view if they get mixed up in Tamil Nadu politics, compelling the Central Government to take action against them.

All these aspects are being carefully examined in Delhi, along with the evaluation under way of the latest Sri Lankan formulations. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Mr. Bernard Tilakaratne, is due to meet the Minister of State, Mr. Chidambaram tomorrow with some further elucidations from Colombo, although the Sri Lankan Government continues to insist on retaining some sort of reserve powers in maintaining law and order in the provinces.

After their talks with MGR at his residence, Mr. Narasimha Rao, Mr. Parthasarathy and Mr. Chidambaram paid a courtesy call on the Governor, Mr. S. L. Khurana, at Raj Bhavan before flying back to Delhi.

Our Madras Staff Reporter writes:

Mr. Parthasarathy, Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Chidambaram made a brief visit to Madras today.

Arriving here by a special plane from Delhi at 10 a.m. they drove straight to the residence of Mr. M. G. Ramachandran and were with him for about 45 minutes. Later, they went to Raj Bhavan, had discussions with the Government of India officials (already in the city) and left for New Delhi around 1 p.m.

Statement on Offensive

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 May 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 19

The Government of India today condemned in the strongest possible terms, the massive military operations launched by Sri Lanka in the Northern Province, including aerial bombing and strafing of Jaffna City, which resulted in the destruction of a hospital and the loss of a large number of innocent civilian lives.

In a sharply worded statement issued after several hours of consultations at the highest level, the Sri Lankan Government was charged with duplicity in preparing for this military action, while talking reassuringly of its desire for a peaceful political settlement of the Tamil problem.

The hopeful atmosphere created by the recent talks between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo had been frustrated by the Jayewardene Government's disinclination to provide any further amplifications or clarifications to the formulations that emerged from these discussions. This negative position taken by Sri Lanka had coincided with the commencement of those military operations, which have turned the sincere efforts to resolve this tragic tangle into a pointless exercise.

Shiv Shankar cancels trip

The Indian statement, approved by the Prime Minister after his return from the African tour today was drafted by the new External Affairs

Minister, Mr. P. Shiv Shankar, in consultation with senior officials dealing with this problem. In view of these grave developments, Mr. Shiv Shankar cancelled his trip to Brazil to attend the Group of 77 meeting and the Finance Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, left tonight to represent India at this conference.

Text of statement

The following is the full text of the Indian statement: "We are distressed and disturbed by reports that the Sri Lanka armed forces have commenced large-scale military operations in the Jaffna peninsula, including indiscriminate aerial bombing and strafing of Jaffna City, which has resulted in the destruction of a hospital and a large number of civilians killed and many hundreds wounded. Such continued military operations will inevitably lead to the loss of still larger number of innocent civilian lives and only prolong the agony and suffering of the people of Sri Lanka.

The Government of India expresses its their grave concern at the massive use of force by the Government of Sri Lanka at a time when Sri Lankan leaders have repeatedly professed their commitment to seeking a peaceful political solution to the ethnic issue. It is particularly deplorable that such operations should have been undertaken at a time when the Governments of India and Sri Lanka were engaged in discus-

sions to find a peaceful political solution to this problem. These operations frustrate the process of negotiations. The Government of India is also distressed by the unwarranted and baseless statements of the Sri Lankan leadership, appearing in the press, critical of the Prime Minister of India.

Negative position

"The attitude of the Sri Lankan Government gives the clear impression that it is unwilling to provide any further amplifications or clarifications on the subjects discussed during the visit of the Minister of State, Mr. P. Chidambaram, to Colombo, nor does it seem prepared to furnish its views on alternative formulations suggested in this regard. This negative position taken by the Sri Lankan Government has now

coincided with the commencement of its military operations in the Jaffna peninsula, which is indeed unfortunate.

"The Government of India would like to reiterate its firm view that there can be no military solution to the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. The current military operations undertaken by the Sri Lankan armed forces will only lead to further worsening of the situation and add to the suffering of the people of Sri Lanka. It is our earnest hope that rather than taking recourse to the use of force and bloodshed against a significant section of its own people, the Government of Sri Lanka would do well to seek a resolution of the ethnic issue through a process of dialogue and meaningful, pragmatic measures to meet the situation and resolve the problem."

Rajiv Remarks to Press

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 May 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 19

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, said today on his return to Delhi that the Sri Lankan Government appeared to be seeking a military solution to the Tamil problem.

He was evidently distressed and dismayed by the latest military gamble by Sri Lanka to regain control of the Jaffna peninsula under the guise of fighting terrorism while shirking all pretence of striving for a political settlement.

The Prime Minister observed that the Sri Lankan Government seemed to be going back on what had been agreed upon during the recent visit of the Indian delegation to Colombo for talks on the Tamil problem, since it had subsequently attempted to dilute the formulations that emerged from these discussions. He, however, expressed the hope that it would abide by the oft repeated assurance that it was genuinely interested in a peaceful solution.

Change in thinking: He said: "We had thought the talks had been good and a solution was possible." But before he left on his tour, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Delhi reflected the change in the thinking of his Government, while presenting the clarifications sought by the Indian delegation.

As he had been kept fully informed of what had happened in the last few days during his absence from Delhi, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi did not hesitate to caution the Sri Lankan Government against the futility of moving towards a military solution. He appealed to it not to resort to any precipitate action that would weaken the latest peace efforts.

The Government of India did have some advance information about the impending military drive by the Sri Lankan army against the Tamil militants in a hazardous bid to regain control over the Jaffna peninsula where the troops had remained pinned down to their garrisons.

Preparing for action: It did all that was possible to dissuade Mr. Jayewardene from resorting to this risky operation, but the Sri Lankan President and his advisers were apparently preparing for this action even when they were discussing the procedures for devolution and the contents of the proposed autonomy with the Indian delegation.

As the Sri Lankan Government is no longer prepared to provide the amplifications sought by India for putting together the proposals that emerged from the talks in Colombo into a reasonable peace package, there is little hope of a renewed dialogue with the Tamil groups for a negotiated settlement. In these circumstances all that the Government of India can do at present is to keep on urging both sides to exercise restraint and strive earnestly for a fair and equitable political settlement.

Though the Sri Lanka situation dominated the Prime Minister's press conference at the airport, several other issues were dealt with by him in response to questions. These included the six nation initiative on nuclear disarmament, the Soviet extension of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, the Commonwealth talks in London on the South African situation and the outcome of his visits to the four frontline States.

Help to frontline States: Talking about the visit of the Commonwealth eminent persons group (EPG) to South Africa, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said it had some success in the sense that the members of the group were permitted to meet the imprisoned leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela, who has become an eloquent symbol of the African people's struggle against racism. But it failed to make any headway in persuading the white racist regime to give up apartheid which was the central issue.

He voiced his satisfaction with the outcome of his visits to Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania and reaffirmed India's readiness to extend all possible help to these frontline States for their economic development, especially in the field of agriculture. And he denied that the African National Congress (ANC) leaders had asked for arms from India, although he did not preclude such assistance if the need arose for it in future.

Envoy Calls on Jayewardene

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 May 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI May 20

The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr. J. N. Dixit, called on the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, today to convey India's grave concern and urge him to halt the military operations in the Jaffna peninsula where the fighting was still continuing with further bombing attacks on the civil population.

At one stage of this discussion, the Sri Lankan Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, was called in by Mr. Jayewardene to tell the Indian envoy that it was the Tamil militants who launched this offensive which was timed to coincide with the scheduled turnaround of troops in the Northern Province.

In the statement he made earlier during the day in Sri Lankan Parliament, Mr. Athulathmudali indulged in patent falsehoods that were full of contradictions to cover up the indiscriminate attacks by his security forces. He claimed that the general hospital in Jaffna was not hit during the bombing raids by his Air Force, while making a sarcastic reference to the statement issued in Delhi last night voicing India's dismay and indignation.

Irrefutable evidence: But there is irrefutable evidence that during the bombing yesterday, wards Number 12, 15, 18, 23 and 29, besides the out patients department, were damaged along with several other buildings in Jaffna that

had no military significance. The Defence Ministry spokesman in Colombo has been talking during his daily press briefings, of a three pronged drive by the Sri Lankan Army to regain control of the Jaffna peninsula, while Mr. Athulathmudali has been claiming that it was the Tamil militants that were attacking the troops with mortars and rockets from three sides as they came out of their camps.

But at the same time he claimed that these military operations have been successful and had achieved the main objective, saying boastfully that the LTTE had learnt the bitter lesson that they cannot run Jaffna the way they wanted, implying the Government had reestablished some measure of control over it. He also tried to castigate India for not saying anything when the LTTE slaughtered over a hundred of their fellow militants belonging to TELO in the course of their internal squabbles.

Dubious distinction: But the Government of India has no desire to engage in any polemics with Mr. Athulathmudali, while cautioning Mr. Jayewardene against the danger of permanently alienating the Tamil population with this military action. The present Government in Sri Lanka has certainly earned the dubious distinction of bombing its own people by embarking on this astonishing gamble of attempting to subdue them at the point of the gun.

It was quite clear from the flurry of activity in Delhi today that India's patience is rapidly running out in the face of this latest Sri Lankan duplicity in talking of a peaceful settlement but attempting simultaneously to seek a military solution. The Indian High Commissioner's meeting with Mr. Jayewardene was intended to get this message across in no uncertain terms, leaving him in no doubt whatsoever that India cannot be expected to remain unconcerned if the Sri Lankan Government does not call off this military operation.

It is quite evident from reports reaching Delhi that the Tamil militants have been putting up very stiff resistance and compelling the Sri Lankan troops to withdraw to their camps in the face of fierce counter-attacks by them. But in many cases the Sri Lankan troops have been pulling back to regroup themselves and resume their offensive.

Warning to Sri Lanka Envoy

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 May 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 22.

As fighting continued today both in the Jaffna peninsula and parts of the Eastern province, there was renewed diplomatic activity in Delhi as well as Colombo to see what could be done to bring about a suspension of hostilities through some sort of tacit ceasefire.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, told the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Delhi, Mr. Bernard Tiskarasne, quite bluntly that the negotiating process cannot be resumed until there was a stoppage of armed attacks on the Tamils by the Sri Lankan security forces.

LTTE blamed

Later today the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, called the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr. J. N. Dixit, to restate his contention that it was the LTTE that started the latest fighting by attempting to prevent the Army from moving out of their camps and shelling the Jaffna Fort. He also tried to explain away his recent harsh remarks against India by complaining that Sri Lanka was being vilified through a campaign of disinformation.

The Sri Lankan President had been implying that the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his advisers were being misled by Tamil propaganda and made to believe that the latest military offensive had been launched to break the Indian efforts to bring about an early political settlement.

The Foreign Secretary, therefore, did not let go the opportunity of his meeting with the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to rub in the point that in offering its good offices India was not doing itself a favour, nor was Sri Lanka obliging India by responding in whatever manner to its pleas for a negotiated settlement. He told Mr. Tiskarasne quite bluntly that until the bombing stops and some degree of normality is restored nothing can be done to resume the threads of India's mediatory efforts.

According to the latest reports reaching Delhi, the Sri Lankan troops are now boxed in in their camps and unable to move out to continue their offensive operations. But the Sri Lankan Air Force planes and helicopters are still engaged in indiscriminate bombing raids and the Tamil militants are unable to shoot them down since they have no anti-aircraft guns.

Attack on hospital

The Sri Lankan Government is now resorting to the astonishing alibi that the general hospital in Jaffna was damaged by mortar shells fired by the Tamil militants, not during the bombing raids on the town.

The Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali went to the extent of displaying in the Parliament House in Colombo photos of the hospital building, presumably taken before the air attack, in support of his claim that the

hospital was intact and that the talk of the building having been hit was a malicious insinuation to discredit the Sri Lankan security forces which were displaying considerable restraint.

Though the Government of India will keep on urging Sri Lanka to call off its military offensive and suspend the bombing raids on civil population, it will not take any further steps to restart the stalled political dialogue until these operations have been halted by the security forces. It is not possible to talk of peace, in India's view, when the Sri Lankan Government is waging war on a section of its own people.

Ill-advised offensive

At the political level, the ill-advised Sri Lankan military offensive has not only halted these peace efforts, but also complicated the ethnic problem further by rendering it almost impossible for moderate Tamils to agree to a compromise based on concessions by both sides.

The insurgency in Sri Lanka has now assumed the dimensions of a civil war with the entire Tamil population turning against the Government in the face of its senseless State terrorism, which is infinitely worse than the counter-violence of the Tamil militants who have resorted to an armed struggle for separation.

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CSO: 4600/1773

INDIA

FOOD CORPORATION CHAIRMAN REPORTS HARVEST PROGRESS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 May 86 p 5

[Text] After some initial slackness, wheat procurement has picked up full momentum and the total purchases to the Central pool has exceeded 7.6 million tonnes, reports UNI.

This is only about 300,000 tonnes behind the performance in the corresponding period last year, Food Corporation of India chairman T.C. Dutt told newsmen on Tuesday.

Procurement agencies were confident, Mr Dutt said, that wheat procurement this year would total if not exceed, last year's record figure of 10.3 million tonnes, reflecting the bumper harvests in the major wheat growing States.

Mr Dutt attributed the initial slackness this year to problems of labour shortage in Punjab and private traders being more active in Uttar Pradesh.

Punjab has so far procured 4.6 million tonnes of wheat, compared to 4.9 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year. In Uttar Pradesh procurement so far is only 0.86 million tonnes, compared to 1.17 million tonnes in this period last year.

But Haryana has done exceedingly well by procuring already over two million tonnes, about 200,000 tonnes more than last year, and hopes to make a record total purchase of over 2.0 million tonnes for the central pool.

The total foodgrains stock with the Government as on 1 July this year was expected to be 29.34 million tonnes, comprising 20 million tonnes of wheat and 9.3 million tonnes of rice, Mr Dutt said.

The stocks would be maintained more or less at the same level as last year because of the deliberate policy to increase the offtake. Besides the allocation for the normal public distribution system, over 3.3 million tonnes would be allocated to States for various anti-poverty programmes, including 1.3 million tonnes under the programme for providing cheaper food grains to tribal people.

FCI chairman said movement of foodgrains in 1985-86 was a record--19.3 million tonnes. This was 24 percent higher than the achievement in the previous year.

Of this, 14.6 million tonnes were moved only from the major foodgrain belt in the north.

Referring to the storage problem, Mr Dutt said the situation would be 'fairly under control' because of the stepped up programme of building covered storages. Still, four to five million tonnes of foodgrains would have to be kept this year cover and plinth (CAP) storage.

Replying to a question, Mr Dutt said a number of measures had been initiated to bring down storage and transit losses. As a result, the total losses came down to 52,000 tonnes or 1.94 percent of the total turnover in 1984-85 from 64,000 tonnes or 2.11 percent of the total turnover in the previous year.

In the procurement operations this year FCI's share had gone up compared to other agencies. In all, FCI has so far procured 35 percent of the total wheat purchases to the Central pool, against 25 percent last year.

A party of newsmen who visited mandis in Haryana--particularly the main wheat producing districts of Karnal and Kurukshetra--found that the procurement operations there were proceeding quite smoothly, despite the heavy arrivals. A steady stream of farmers were bringing their produce by trucks, tractor-drawn trolleys and animal carts.

FCI's regional manager in Haryana, Dharam Vir, said that out of 264 mandis operating in the State, the Corporation was functioning exclusively in 74 and jointly with other agencies in 39.

The quality of wheat arrivals was very good--clean, dried, and fully mature grains--and farmers said they faced no payment problems.

Because of the huge buffer stocks and heavy procurement, Haryana was facing a storage problem. To augment its storage capacity, the FCI in the State has constructed a big CAP storage complex at Pipli, near the holy city of Kurukshetra. The storage complex has been built at a total cost of Rs 36 lakh with a capacity of 75,000 tonnes.

CAP storages have also been built at Taraori, 20 km from Delhi on Delhi-Ambala main line at Karnal.

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CSO: 4600/1780

INDIA

STATES SUBMIT MEMORANDA ON RAVI-BEAS WATERS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 May 86 p 12

[Text]

JAIPUR, May 9:

APERSUAL of the memoranda submitted by Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan to the Eradi tribunal on the Ravi-Beas waters issue reveals that the three states have adopted diametrically opposite positions on the quantum of water utilised on July 1 last and also on each other's rights.

Punjab has claimed 9.655 maf on the basis of the utilisation of the waters on July 1 last, plus the remaining waters. Rajasthan has demanded 9.7 maf while Haryana has claimed 7.14 maf.

While making its claim, Punjab has pointed out that Haryana and Rajasthan had utilised 1.334 maf and 4.5 maf respectively.

On its three-page memorandum, Punjab has claimed that while 9.655 maf of water utilised by it stands guaranteed to it, the remaining waters, if any, also belong to it as "Haryana cannot legally lay any claim to the waters of the Ravi and or the Beas. Punjab also contends that "the Ravi and the Beas do not pass through Haryana and no part of Haryana lies in the basins of these rivers."

As for Rajasthan, Punjab's argument is that the former has no claim beyond its water utilisation.

Rajasthan's memorandum running into 35 pages dwells at length on the

history of the distribution of the waters of these two rivers.

One of the objections raised is that para two of the "reference" is "not a complete reproduction of the relevant provisions of paragraph 9(2) of the Punjab settlement." In paragraph 9(2) of the accord, it has been stated that the decision of the tribunal would be binding on the parties. The Rajasthan government's objection is that this has not been incorporated in the "reference."

Rajasthan has argued that "there is nothing in the terms of reference, either directly or indirectly, which empowers the tribunal to deal with the share of Rajasthan and/or the method or manner of delivery of Rajasthan's share as determined in the 1955 agreement and reiterated in the 1981 agreement."

As for para 1 of the terms of reference, Rajasthan contends that reference to it in this paragraph "has been made without application of mind."

The main contention of Haryana's in its memorandum, running into 500 pages, is that the figures of utilisation of the water of the rivers by Haryana should be taken at 7.4 maf as against 1.334 stated by Punjab.

About para 9(2) of the Punjab accord, Haryana says that "the remaining waters of the Ravi-Beas system should be available for distribution on the basis of need and equity."

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CSO: 4600/1764

INDIA

COMMUNIST PAPER: UNION CARBIDE WON FIRST ROUND

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 May 86 p 4

[Text]

Mr Nani Palkhivala might rejoice over it, but the lakhs of surviving victims of the Bhopal gas-leak tragedy have no reason to enthuse about the decision of Judge Keenan of the New York Federal Court in the Union Carbide Corporation case. The US multinational—whose is indisputably the main responsibility for the mass murder and mutilation, inadequately described as an industrial accident, and whose crime has been compounded by its subsequent conduct—has clearly won the first round. The fact is that it is the UCC plea for a transfer of the case for trial by Indian courts that has been granted, and it is not altered by all the piously disingenuous palliatives offered by the judgment. The motive behind the plea was, obviously, to delay justice and thus deny it in a large measure, and the cynical ploy of the super-profiters would seem to be succeeding. This point about the consequence of the decision that needs no explanation in the normal context of the overburdened Indian judiciary will still hold in the case of a specially devised arrangement, which can be legally challenged at every stage. And the enforcement of the conditions laid down by the US court, claimed as a "victory" for India, can be anything but easy, while UCC can prolong the agonising wait of the victims of its technology further by going in appeal against the verdict in this regard.

Judge Keenan has pompously proclaimed that to retain the litigation in the US would be "another example of imperialism". A far more telling illustration of this form of oppression is the way perverted justice has come to the aid of the free enterprise of death-peddling. None-too-hidden animosity again marks his naming of India as a "world power" that should "pass judgment on behalf of its own people", while those who run the rich-

est "democracy" have presumably no duty to punish the crimes against humanity of the dollar power on which it rests. Descending from the sublime to the sordid, he has also said that the cost of holding a trial in the US would be "unfairly" heavy for its judiciary. The hard-bargaining Yankee spirit is apparent in the additional assertion that the case involved no US interests—a viewpoint certainly not shared by enlightened American groups that do not see the stakes of the people and the military-industrial complex ruling them as common, and that have deplored the decision as "shameful".

The judgment is being sought to be used as a pressure on India to revert to the once-rejected option of a negotiated, out-of-court settlement, in which the US hopes to get off cheaply. Some have even spelt this out as a dictate of Indo-American technological cooperation, echoing an arrogant demand voiced by a US business delegation not long ago. This is an ill-disguised form of blackmail, to which there can be no question of succumbing. If it is an Indian trial they want, they should have it; and the Government, which has let itself be led into a trap once, must make amends and make sure that the process is not allowed to make the long-delayed succour for the Bhopal victims meaninglessly remote. d

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CSO: 4600/1775

INDIA

NAVY TO BUY DORNIER-228 AIRCRAFT WITH MISSILES

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 24 May 86 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, May 23 (UNI)--The Indian Navy will acquire 26 Dornier-228 aircraft fitted with latest air-to-surface missiles, very sophisticated radar and electronic systems management (ESM) equipment.

Three such aircraft are being purchased from West Germany in fly-away condition and 23 Dorniers would be manufactured at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited unit in Kanpur.

The Navy is considering two options for the missiles. The first is the French AS-15-TT missile and the Thomson CSF Agrion radar and the DR 2000 Dalia ESM system. The second option is to purchase the Sea Skua missiles from British Aerospace and the Super Searcher or the Sea Spray radar with ALR-606 ESM system from the American firm General Instruments or alternatively to go in for the ESM systems that go with the aircraft carrier Hermes which India has purchased.

A team of pilots, navigators, engineers and sailors from the coastguard have gone to Munich in West Germany for a three-month training on the new versions of the Dornier-228 aircraft. The new Dornier-228 for the coastguard would be fitted with the sophisticated sensors and incorporate the latest surveillance radar.

Negotiations for the purchase of sophisticated equipment for these aircraft are now on with the British, Canadian and French firms. The Indian-built Dornier-228 for the Navy and the coastguard would also incorporate equipment manufactured indigenously.

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CSO: 4600/1789

INDIA

DIVISION OF LABOR IN COMBAT AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURE

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 May 86 p 8

[Article by Manoj Joshi]

[Text]

THE division of labour envisaged initially for the Light Combat Aircraft project was roughly 90-10 between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The HAL will be involved in the aerodynamics, structures and fabrication, flight control, avionics, electrical and power systems, fuel and hydraulics and other systems. The DRDO will be involved with the simulation and engine, and the weapons systems will be made by the HAL and the DRDO combined. In the present scheme of things, with the project team seeking greater cooperation from universities, national institutes and engineering colleges, as well as encouraging inter-lab and inter-department collaboration, the lines of division tend to get blurred. Nevertheless, the HAL has been assigned the primary task of fabricating a prototype.

A significant component of the work will be done by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment, the Aeronautical Development Establishment and the Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE) in Bangalore. Almost all the levels of complexities encountered in the airframe and systems design including, for that matter, their cost, will be duplicated in the design and development of the GTX engine that is to power the LCA. From the beginning, Indian designers have been aware of the fact that this is a problem area.

Fighter engines of the type that will go into air superiority aircraft being designed for the 1990s, will be compact and light for a high thrust-weight ratio. These will give a high sustained turn rate, acceleration rate, specific excess power (SEP), and have capability for short take-off. A low reheat regime will ensure a lower specific fuel consumption (SFC) for combat endurance and a good dry thrust and SFC for air-to-ground

capability and large radius of action. The extreme manoeuvrability of the LCA provided by fly-by-wire controls to overcome the built-in instability of the delta-winged design will also require a high off-take power at various stages of manoeuvre and combat.

Test procedures

To meet the requirements the GTRE proposed the GTX programme with a concept that is now widely accepted elsewhere. This proposal was finally cleared in 1974 and funds to develop a demonstrator sanctioned in the following year. In the next five years, the GTRE expanded its establishment and built up the infrastructure as it fabricated the demonstrator engine.

The process of building a demonstrator was not simple. It involved the application of research being conducted at the GTRE and elsewhere on advanced systems and components like transonic compressors, annular combustors, turbines and catalytic ignition systems. The success was the consequence of an approach that focussed on initial research on component development which was integrated into the demonstrator.

The important lessons of the demonstrator project were that considerable attention would have to be paid to the structural reliability of the engine and that better methods would have to be devised for cooling the turbine blades. The success of the demonstrator however did not coincide with the firm decision on the LCA, which was still being discussed at the concept level. In March 1983, Rs. 80 crores was sanctioned for the full-scale development of the GTX engine.

By the end of last year, a prototype of the GTX-37-14U had been developed and put on the test-bed. More prototypes are being fabricated. Testing, learning and applying the lessons from the intricate and time-consuming test procedures will be continually

applied as newer prototypes are made. For example, the first tests show that having reached the maximum after-burner performance, there are still problems with the thrust-weight ratio (indicating that the engine would have to become lighter). Continuing research has indicated that some of the requirements for improved thrust without any additional weight penalty could be met by better combustor performance and by better cooling of turbine blades. These will result in enhancing the thrust weight ratio to 8.1 in the next GTX variant and to 10 finally. Turn of the century variants posit a thrust weight ratio of 12.1 for combat aircraft engines.

If all goes well, and this implies a combination of luck, skill, ingenuity, and proper appreciation by the funding authorities, by 1988 there should be four engines of the 37-14U variant undergoing test bed trials. The test schedules will end by the mid-nineties when the first flying trials will begin to type-certify the engine by the following year.

The variant for the LCA would have to incorporate all other aspects in its design like the Full Authority Digital Electronic Control System for better pilot handling, flexibility and optimum performance. A robust mechanical design is required to minimise the effects of bird-strike or combat damage, and to enable easy and quick on-condition maintenance.

The GTRE has a tough task on its hands given the fact that engines which could be used as possible back-ups for the LCA are already flying. Two of these are the RB 199 (U.K.) and the GE 404 (U.S.) and if the GTX 35 is slated for better performance than either, it is more than certain that these engines will also have undergone modification for enhanced performance.

"Flat rating" concept

The one important innovation in the GTX engine would be the concept of flat rating, also called throttle ratio now. As air enters an engine, it is compressed, raising its temperature as it goes into the combustor where it is ignited with the fuel and rushes out to drive the compressor. The higher the combustor inlet temperature, the higher the efficiency of the thermodynamic cycle.

Most engines are designed in temperate countries and are optimised for a condition called the ISA (International Standard Atmosphere) which means at sea level air pressure plus 15°C ambient temperature. Given Indian conditions where the ambient temperatures are around 40-45°C during many months, the optimum engine performance declines as they operate under ISA plus 20°C conditions at take off.

The GTX concept therefore incorporates the necessity of optimising performance at ISA + 20°C conditions. Both at the demonstrator stage and in the GTX design, the GTRE scientists had posited a "flat rating"

concept which enables the engine to generate the required high thrust as well as prevent any significant degradation of performance at high ambient conditions.

Flat rating of the engine involves raising the combustor exit temperatures to around 1400°K and devising systems to cool the turbine blades. Obtaining cooled turbine technology from abroad is next to impossible and so the DMRL has been involved with the GTRE in making them. The compressor blades are made of titanium and considerable problems have to be tackled not so much at the design level (which is not too simple for transonic compressors) as at the level of machining. Titanium has certain properties that make it a tricky metal to handle.

Another important laboratory that is involved in the LCA project is the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) headed by Dr. Kota Harinarayana, Programme Director for the LCA Project. Of late its charter has been modified to take in new thrust areas of research in targets, drones and remotely piloted vehicles, flight simulation and other simulation techniques, air armament, flight research and development and other evaluative work assigned by the DRDO. The experience of the pilotless target aircraft project of the ADE has application in research on flight control system (fly-by-wire or fly-by-light systems), miniaturisation, aerodynamics and electronics.

The work on this also has application in another important area of modern warfare, that of remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs) which are increasingly being touted for aerial reconnaissance, electronic intelligence gathering, electronic counter and counter-counter measures, defence suppression etc.

Flight simulator

The ADE is also involved in projects related to head-up displays and multi-function displays where data on navigation, flight characteristics and weapons systems are presented using 2-3 colour cathode ray tube monitors in addition to the HUDs. There are also ongoing projects relating to laser ranging systems and infrared search, detection and tracking systems.

One major area of success for the ADE has been in the design and production of the flight simulator for the Kiran trainer aircraft and the Ajeet fighter aircraft. In about four years, the ADE was able to master simulation technology and go ahead with the prototypes which have since been delivered to the users. The system requires a complex level of computer software and engineering.

According to Air Vice-Marshal H. N. Krishnamurthy, former Director of ADE, simulation of any physical system is possible if its behaviour can be expressed in the form of mathematical equations. The accuracy attained depends on the accuracy of the model and the input data. Therefore, in designing the LCA aircraft, these techniques

will be used to simulate various flight parameters against given requirements and "prove" concepts mathematically before actual design stage.

In fact, part of the speed of development of the LCA will depend on the validation of many of its sub-systems' performance through simulation without having to go through a lengthy flight development programme. This is possible through electronic data processing.

The Electronics and Radar Development Establishment is another DRDO laboratory that is involved in the LCA project. Its most important role will be in the design of the multi-mode radar for the aircraft. Existing Indian expertise has not yet gone beyond the electro-mechanical scanning radar systems.

Stealth concepts

State of the art radar technology requires measures to protect against anti-radiation missiles, overcome features of aircraft stealth, electronic counter-counter measure capability, as well as smaller size which means miniaturisation, and signal processing through microprocessors. Current research is based on the experience LRDE has had, and its success with larger radar systems, especially in developing signal processing, and software and hardware.

The current system under development has the acronym QUESAR, i.e., Quiet Electronically Scanning Azimuthally Rotating Radar. Most radiation missiles home onto the side lobes of the main radar search beam since they require a continuous input which cannot be provided by the main beam. Jamming too takes place via the side lobes. The QUESAR design has a repertoire of wave forms achieved through use of digital, rather than analog wave-form generation which can be reprogrammed easily. The design can also ensure that the side-lobe energy is ultra-low. Current research has brought down the energy levels to 1,000 times below the mainbeam and the goal is to attain 1/10,000 the level. QUESAR type radars will also have a multi-function capability, i.e., they will be integrated in the weapons systems.

Modern aircraft designs have begun incorporating stealth concepts at various levels. This may mean altering nozzles to reduce infrared signatures or structural design and materials or paint that reduces the radar signature of an aircraft. For example, the American B-1B aircraft has 1/100 the radar signature of a B-52 bomber it is due to replace though it is not much smaller than the latter. To overcome this, more powerful radar sources are required.

The work conducted by these or any other laboratory will not be completely in-house. It is possible that they will be the co-ordinating institutions for the transfer of

technology from abroad in forms of the "minimum essential areas" idea.

Cost of programme

India has learnt over the years that licensed production in itself does not mean transfer of technology as there are hundreds of parameters of a piece of equipment that are not available in a licensed production arrangement. The DRDO is determined that in this case full value for money is received and the costs of imports will be offset by the future gains in research and development capability.

Most DRDO laboratories undertake major projects through cooperation with other laboratories, national laboratories, public sector units and increasingly, universities, institutes like the IITs, Indian Institute of Science and the TIFR. Many a knotty problem has been ironed out through such arrangements and experience gained in co-operative effort which is a must in all work of this kind.

Observers suggest that the cost of the development programme will be around Rs 2,000 crores. This seems a logical estimate considering the stated appropriation of Rs 600 crores (at 82-83 prices). This will be roughly divided into the costs of the engine and the airframe. To productionise both of these will involve costs in the region of Rs 10-12,000 crores or more which, of course, has the element of savings associated with a domestic design, and research and development.

More important will be the manner in which the LCA will fit into the airforce requirements of the 1990s and beyond. There will be at that time an urgent requirement for a replacement of the MIG 21s and MIG 23s of the IAF. These aircraft, light and highly manoeuvrable have been and continue at present to be the "work-horses" of the Air Force. The LCA will thus be the 1990s version of these aircraft—light, manoeuvrable, agile and equipped with a range of electronics and weaponry that will make it as formidable as the aircraft it is likely to replace.

The task of the DRDO-HAL team is to produce the fighter whose specifications have been laid out. They are confident they can do it and their work has begun. In many ways they look at the LCA project as being akin to the Eureka project in France, a challenge to researchers and scientists in a variety of areas and disciplines. It seeks to provide an elan to Indian scientists and enthuse the country at large with overcoming challenges in scientific/technical areas. More important it attempts to provide the country self-reliance in the crucial area of defence equipment.

This has been done once with the 16-74 programme and there is no reason to assume that it cannot be done again.

INDIA

BRIEFS

CPI CONDEMNS ORDINANCE--New Delhi, May 17 (UNI)--The CPI today described as "an attack on the rights of parliament and legislatures" the ordinance empowering the government to withhold reports of commissions of inquiry from elected houses. A party spokesman said the ordinance was a serious encroachment on the basic right of accountability to the elected bodies. Condemning the issue of such an ordinance a few days after the adjournment of both houses of parliament, he said his party wanted immediate withdrawal of this "anti-democratic step." The Congress (S) parliamentary party secretary, Mr Suresh Kalmadi, said it was quite clear that the government had no respect for the legislature. The ordinance was in violation of democratic and parliamentary procedures, he added. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 86 p 9] /9317

CPI-M SCORES ORDINANCE--New Delhi, May 17--The Politburo of the CPI(M) said today that the proclamation of the Ordinance through which the Government had assumed powers to withhold reports of commissions of inquiry from Parliament or State legislatures was uncalled for and "an attack on the rights of Parliament and the legislatures." In a statement to the Press, the CPI(M) condemned the promulgation of such an Ordinance only a few days after the adjournment of both Houses of Parliament. "The Ordinance is a serious encroachment on the basic right of accountability to the elected bodies," it said and demanded "immediate withdrawal of this anti-democratic step." [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 18 May 86 p 1] /9317

TRADE WITH GDR--India and the GDR have concluded a long-term trade agreement taking in its sweep a four-year period up to 1990. The agreement is expected to double the bilateral trade figures from the Rs 201 crore level last year. The agreement was initialled by commerce Ministry joint secretary B.K. Chaturvedi and GDR Foreign Trade Ministry director-general F.A. Quaps in Berlin on Tuesday. Under the agreement, India will import a number of items from GDR including urea, newsprint, and steel products. India will export to the GDR shoe uppers, mica and mica products, readymade garments and tobacco. A sizable growth in the export of electronic goods components is also expected according to a Commerce Ministry pressnote. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 May 86 p 6] /9317

LOAN FROM FRG--West Germany has agreed to extend to India a loan of 35 million deutsche marks (DM) or about Rs 18.8 crore to enable the country import capital goods from the FRG this year. The agreement was signed in the Capital on Tuesday by FRG Ambassador Goenther Schoedel and Finance Secretary S. Venkitaramanan. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 May 86 p 6] /9317

ENVOY TO MOSCOW--Veteran career diplomat and former foreign secretary T.N. Kaul has been appointed the new ambassador to the Soviet Union in succession to Prof Nurul Hasan, whose three-year tenure is coming to an end, it was officially announced in the Capital on Tuesday. The 72-year-old Mr Kaul is expected to take up his assignment shortly. This is the second ambassadorial posting Mr Kaul would be doing in Moscow, where he was the envoy during 1965 Indo-Pakistan war. Mr Kaul brings the post rich and vast experience in diplomacy. Besides being involved in the quiet Soviet diplomacy that went into bringing about the Tashkent accord between India and Pakistan in 1966, Mr Kaul had held foreign secretary's post during the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war. He retired from the foreign service in 1972. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 May 86 p 1] /9317

INDO-MAURITIAN JOINT VENTURE--Port Louis, May 18 (PTI)--Indo-Mauritian co-operation has moved forward with the two governments taking steps to concretise the setting up of a joint shipping venture for which negotiations were held in New Delhi from 5 to 7 May. The Indian government's financial assistance to Mauritius to enable it to participate in the venture shows India's sincere desire to consolidate the existing friendly relations between the two countries, which are bound by historical ties. The council of ministers chaired by Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth, at a meeting yesterday favourably considered a report on the negotiations held in New Delhi. From Government sources it is learnt initially the new shipping company will own three vessels which will be acquired from the Shipping Corporation of India. It is also learnt the price of the ships would be determined by a reputable international firm of values. "The Exim Bank of India and the Government of India will provide the necessary funds for the Mauritian participation in the venture," Government sources said here. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 May 86 p 5] /9317

PEOPLE'S CONGRESS RESIGNATIONS--Srinagar, May 9 (PTI)--The pro-autonomy People's Conference received a jolt today when a senior member of its working committee along with 200 prominent members resigned from the party. Mr S.M. Iqbal, who made the announcement, said he had resigned from the working committee of the party and its primary membership because party's chairman, A.C. Lone, MLA, had declared that he would "fight tooth

and nail," Dr Farooq Abdullah, the president of the National Conference. Till recently, Mr Lone and his party were part of the three-party alliance of which other prominent constituents besides Dr Farooq-led National Conference was Awami Action Committee of Mirwaiz Farooq. Prominent of the 200 others who quit the party were party's district presidents from Pulwama and Shopian in south Kashmir. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 May 86 p 1] /9317

CPI-M ON SRI LANKA--New Delhi, May 20--The CPI(M) today condemned the Sri Lanka government's military attacks on Jaffna and the bombing of three African frontline states by South Africa earlier this week. In a statement on Sri Lanka, the CPI(M) politburo said, "By its military action in Jaffna, the Sri Lanka government seems to have abandoned its earlier professions of a negotiated settlement of the ethnic issue in the country." A military solution would not only add to the suffering of the Sri Lankan people but also "lead to the estrangement of relations between the two nonaligned countries--India and Sri Lanka," it said. The statement added that the course being followed by the Jayewardene government was inspired by imperialism "to increase its stranglehold in Sri Lanka in particular and in the region in general." The CPI(M) made it clear that it was holding "no brief for terroristic activities" but stated that the government's action would only worsen the situation since negotiated political settlement was the only solution to the ethnic strife in the island nation. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 21 May 86 p 4] /9317

SOUTH AFRICA CONDEMNED--New Delhi, May 19--India today condemned the "savage" attacks by the racist regime of South Africa against the frontline states and expressed its solidarity with them and the liberation movements. In a statement condemning the attacks, a spokesman of the external affairs ministry said these were designed to intimidate Harare which was going to host the eighth non-aligned summit. "This aggression is in line with the unabashed actions of this regime to destabilise neighbouring sovereign states," he said. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 May 86 p 1] /9317

INDIA-BANGLADESH TRADE--New Delhi, May 16--The trade agreement between India and Bangladesh has been extended for three years from October next and will remain in force till October 1989. The decision to extend the agreement was taken at a three-day meeting between an Indian team led by Mr Prem Kumar, Commerce Secretary, and a Bangladesh delegation headed by its Commerce Secretary, Mr A.B.M. Ghulam Mostafa, which ended here today. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and covered an extensive area of bilateral trade, projects, trade-generating joint ventures and related issues. It was officially stated that India had agreed to increase the import of urea, newsprint, leather, books, bamboo, pulp, etc., from Bangladesh. It is likely that long-term arrangements for importing commodities of interest to India would be entered into. The meeting also discussed the export of coal, refractories and wheat. The Indian side expressed interest in industrial projects coming up in Bangladesh. Special exhibition in Dhaka: India has decided to hold a special exhibition in Dhaka from September 16 to 27 to display the wide range of its industrial products. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 May 86 p 1] /9317

FOREIGN BANKING OPERATIONS--Bombay, May 15--The Reserve Bank of India has opened a new department, the Department of External Investments and Operations, at its central office in Bombay to look after all issues involving its financial dealings with foreign countries. The new department will look after investment of foreign exchange reserves of the country, exchange rates fixation under the multiple currency basket, purchase and sale of foreign currencies from/to the authorised dealers in India (including those under the FCNRA scheme). Government's transactions in foreign currencies, dealings with foreign central banks and international institutions like the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, including International Development Association, Asian Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, banking arrangements under the bilateral trade agreements, transactions under the Asian Clearing Union, and all other issues involving the RBI's financial dealings with foreign countries. It will also monitor borrowings abroad and servicing of debt obligations, study and analyse the international market conditions and new financing instruments on an ongoing basis and also look into the various aspects regarding market borrowings by Indian entities. The work hitherto attended to by the Foreign Accounts Division of the Department of Government and Bank Accounts of the RBI is being transferred to the new department which will be the focal point in the RBI's central office to monitor and supervise the above-mentioned activities in a more efficient manner. The department, which came into existence from today (May 15), is headed by Mr P.B. Kulkarni, Chief Officer, who was till now in charge of the Foreign Accounts Division of the Department of Government and Bank Accounts. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 May 86 p 16] /9317

AMBASSADOR TO HUNGARY--New Delhi, May 15--Mr S.K. Lambah, Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry and in charge of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Division, has been appointed Indian Ambassador to Hungary, reports UNI. Mr Lambah will succeed Mr Arvind Deo. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 May 86 p 7] /9317

CSO: 4600/1782

PAKISTAN

U.S. STAND ON UN TERMED 'DOLLAR DESPOTISM'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 May 86 p 4

[Text]

THE U.S. Chief Delegate to the United Nations, General Vernon Walters, a former CIA Deputy Chief, has sounded a note of warning to those countries that do not fall in line with U.S. perceptions at the U.N. He wishes them to be cut out of any future aid programmes unless they toe the line. He would not, of course, admit that aid given by the U.S. over the last 40 years has brought more bonanza to the U.S. and much less to the aid-receiving countries.

The neo-colonialism that accompanied dollar diplomacy deprived many countries of the fruits of independence. The interests of the old colonial European powers was safeguarded by the U.S. which assumed through the intrusion of aid the role of political king-makers. Aid receiving countries have got a mixture of carrots and sticks; carrots for the elites and sticks for the people. Since World War-II, the world has progressed and changed in terms of economics, politics, technology and thought. The U.S. fiat has ceased to be gospel for the world except for U.S. surrogates. Yesterday, it was the threat to cut off donations to the U.N.; today, it is to cut off U.S. aid to member nations of the U.N., who do not vote with the United States. In doing so, General Walters has revealed the true dimensions of U.S. aid programmes as a tool of foreign-policy making.

In as many languages as possible, Walters, a linguist should be told by Yaqub the linguist, a resounding No. Walters expects Third World countries to exchange their conscience for dollars. At this point, one is reminded of Yakubo Gowon, the former Nigerian President who told the Pope in 1969 at the time of the Biafra crisis, "You can keep your blood money."

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CSO: 4600/359

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY VIEWS ZIA'S OPTIONS IN VIEW OF PPP CAMPAIGN

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 May 86 p 4

[Article by Prof Khaled Mahmud]

[Text]

With the beginning of Ramadan, Benazir Bhutto's first round of mass mobilisation campaign has ended. She has now given a call for the consolidation of mass support and organisation of the Party. Obviously the current phase is not the much awaited 'second round', which supposedly will determine her ability to meet the deadline of forcing the government to agree to mid-term polls by this fall. This is an interim period which will give her an opportunity to listen to others, especially the party cadres, instead of talking herself and comprehend problems and conflicts that she has to deal with within the party before she enters the decisive phase of mass activity.

She will also have to make crucial decisions regarding her future course of action. How is she going to maintain the tempo of popular enthusiasm? How will the next round be qualitatively different from the earlier ones? She has no doubt demonstrated her popular support but it does not seem to have rattled the government. So far, she has been trying to isolate President Ziaul Haq, by making him the prime target of her attack and giving signals to the establishment that if he goes she will have no quarrel with the rest.

Despite an apparent divergence of perceptions on the handling of 'Benazir wave' between the President and the Prime Minister, the pressures generated by Benazir's campaigning are not sufficiently strong to make the present political system fall apart. There have been speculations that President Zia, in order to deal with the situation more firmly, may reshuffle the government and bring in new people who are dynamic and willing to take on the PPP more aggressively. Some observers have hinted at the possibility of Prime Minister Junejo being replaced by Jamali, Mahmud Haroon, Illahi Bux Soomro or Jatui. Such a scenario would be possible only if the President feels insecure and considers the Benazir factor a serious threat to his personal authority.

There is no denying the fact that President Zia is under considerable pressure. Like most military leaders, who have assumed a political role, he has never been inclined to relinquish power and it is highly improbable that he would do so on his own in the immediate future. His civilianisation plan was essentially a move to share power with carefully screened politicians willing to play second fiddle to him. But everything has not worked out in the manner it was intended. The Parliament and the Prime Minister are not as subservient or predictable as they could have been under a civilian order installed and monitored by a Martial Law administrator.

The sharing of power has become substantial, and there has been a visible decline in the authority of the President. After the revival of political activities, the Prime Minister having become the leader of the official party conducts himself as the de facto chief executive and the President has willy nilly taken the back seat. The divergence of perceptions between the President and the Prime Minister emanates from the fact that both are relying on different power bases. The President is still averse to political parties, but the Prime Minister wants to establish his bonafides as a politician, who wants to compete with rival political contenders.

So long as Benazir is banking on external assurances or a split in the establishment for a back door entry to power with displaying her capacity to muster street power, President Zia can afford to play it cool. He has no cause to panic or to react in desperation.

Most of her assumption seem to be either misconceptions or based on subjective assessment of the situation. In her bid to isolate Gen. Zia, she has been trying to

delink him from the United States, the Armed Forces and the civilian order. She does not seem to have achieved any one of her desired objectives. There is no apparent split in the armed forces, the differences between the President and the Prime Minister appear to be peripheral which can be resolved within the system and the Americans do not seem to be in a hurry to switch their support. As a matter of fact as long as the Afghan issue is not resolved the U.S. will not like to destabilise the system which can safeguard their interests in the region.

Gen. Ziaul Haq on the other hand is banking on subsiding of the Benazir wave, break-up of the MRD and PPP's inability to emerge as an organisational force which can transform its electoral support into mass agitation. Additionally, he would want to bank upon the formidable array of interests and forces who would resist the PPP's return to power. These include the Army, sections of the bureaucracy, industrial houses, sections of the urban middle classes, pirs and ulema, traders and shopkeepers plus rightwing political parties.

But in case Benazir opts for confrontation and succeeds in stirring up a massive agitation, President Zia will face the most critical situation of his political career. He may have to quit under pressure from his own establishment in order to pave the way for a negotiated settlement. In such an eventuality, he cannot rely on the loyal support of the Army top brass, which has the tradition of abandoning their leader if he can no longer safeguard the interests of the Army as an institution.

President Zia can pre-empt such a situation by imposing a fourth Martial Law, but that would not necessarily guarantee his continuation in power. A new military regime will have to make a fresh start, new promises will have to be made and new goals set and a new man at the helm of affairs will be better qualified to undertake the task. Even Ayub Khan could not manage to secure his personal power when he wanted to impose Martial Law for the second time. This is the dynamics of power struggle and a politicised army, however disciplined and compact, cannot prevent new aspirants for power from trying their luck when they think their turn has come.

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CSO: 4600/359

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY VIEWS BHUTTO'S CHALLENGES, OPTIONS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 May 86 p 4

[Article by Khalid Akhtar]

[Text]

The first phase of Benazir's movement is over and she has every reason to be satisfied with the results. She has been able to attract huge crowds the like of which, both in respect of size and liveliness, the country has not witnessed before. She has demonstrated the rare ability to cause a stir in the masses which, in any society, be it West or the Third World, has remained the most valuable asset of leadership.

Ms. Bhutto could not have hoped to achieve more at the initial stages of what she has described as her 'journey towards democracy'. The unprecedented response she invoked in all the provinces defied even the most optimistic calculations. She was able to establish the fact most convincingly that the PPP, despite remaining at the receiving end during the last nine years, was still the biggest party in the country and she the most volatile and charismatic leader in the opposition. With this twin objective secured gracefully and easily, even her opponents will concede that she has come off well in the first round.

HECTIC AND TESTING

The period between April 10 (the day she landed at Lahore) and May 10 (the day she folded up her first phase of the movement) was hectic and testing for the acting

Chairperson. And how well she managed herself is now a part of history. She was not found lacking in energy, courage, patience, foresight and wisdom. It appeared that a transformed Ms. Bhutto had emerged on the scene. At no stage did she cross the limits nor allowed the huge crowds to get wayward or be carried away by emotions.

It will be interesting to analyse Ms. Bhutto's strategy to reorganise the PPP on new lines, redetermine the PPP's relationship with the component parties of the MRD and finally to broaden and intensify the struggle against the Government. Her preference for youth over experience is noteworthy. Here she appears to be guided by more than one consideration. Besides giving vitality to the party ranks the youthful element could be generally expected to be more loyal to the party leadership. Haunted by the traumatic experience of the mid-seventies, when desertions and betrayals in the PPP hierarchy contributed their bit in taking Mr. Bhutto to the gallows, the loyalty factor has become particularly important for Ms. Bhutto.

It is not yet clear how Ms. Bhutto wants to redetermine the PPP's future relationship with the MRD. Perhaps she is not sure of the MRD's future. And there are enough indications that the Movement has outlived its utility. However, if the MRD survives, Ms. Bhutto would like to view the whole situation in a new perspec-

tive. It can be gathered from her statements and gestures that she will not allow the MRD any share in what she thinks belongs to the PPP. If the PPP stays in the MRD, it will stay as a major component and not as an equal unit of the alliance.

It is significant to note that whereas Ms. Bhutto has had meetings with Wali Khan, Bizenjo and Bugti, she did not have any such contact with Nawabzada Nawabullah Khan or Khawaja Khairuddin. This does not mean that Ms. Bhutto has differences with the Nawabzada or she is closer to Wali Khan or Bizenjo. But this certainly does suggest that in the emerging political scenario the political mainstream is drifting from the conservative channels (to which Nawabzada and like belong to) to radical patterns (particularly in respect of centre-provinces relationship) of which Wali Khan and Bizenjo are the forceful exponents. Ms. Bhutto may like to serve as a bridge between the two. Whether she succeeds in it or inevitably joins or is forced to join either of the two camps remains to be seen.

GANGING UP

Some political observers feel that her parting of ways with the MRD would result in another 'ganging up' against the PPP. What is being overlooked is the fact that in 1977 it was participation by the NDP and PNP in the anti-Bhutto agitation which made the 'ganging up' effective and country-wide. There are hardly any chances now

that the PNP and NDP will toe the same old line. Since the downfall of Bhutto, the political situation in the country had undergone drastic changes. In any case the PPP now has less compulsion to remain on the defensive.

But it is in her manoeuvres against the regime that Ms. Bhutto has exhibited her best talents. She gradually mounted the pressure and as she approached the end of the first phase of her movement, there were visible signs of panic in Government's quarters. President Zia's statement that he would not hesitate to reimpose martial law to control the situation seemed to betray his anxiety over the Benazir phenomenon. She has shown a flair for psychological warfare. Her exaggerated postures, both in Press conferences and public meetings, wherein she tactfully conveyed the impression that she was close to success, have somewhat unnerved the regime. There are persons in the Government who believe that it may no longer be possible to counter Ms. Bhutto in the political arena.

The decisions taken at the Hala Convention clearly show that Ms. Bhutto is preparing for a long and arduous struggle. She knows that her party at the moment is in no position to run the government.

She requires at least one year to prepare the PPP to deliver the goods. During this period she will have to keep the tempo of her struggle at a low level while she prepares the Party for the final onslaught.

laught. But in between this crucial period the Government can spring a surprise and wrest the initiative from her. This remains the greatest threat to Ms. Bhutto.

OPTIONS

On surface the regime appears to have more than one option with it to deal with the Benazir phenomenon. It can imprison her and check the progress of PPP. But any such step, besides causing lot of embarrassment to the Government both at home and abroad, will bring no long-term benefit to it.

Again, the crackdown on the PPP, like the one in 1977, is neither likely nor feasible. Any such move will take the situation to a point of no-return. The fourth Martial Law will be an even more extreme measure, bringing in its wake much graver consequences. The situation has been further aggravated by the fragility of the new system. It has tended to prolong its tenure with Presidential Ordinances, as is evident by the recent amendment which 'bailed out' the Prime Minister and his colleagues from an almost hopeless position. Such an approach could hardly strengthen the political process. What is most alarming is the fact that in our case the much publicised notion of peaceful transfer of power is threatening to become a will-o'-the-wisp rather than a practical proposition.

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CSO: 4600/360

PAKISTAN

ZIA SIGNS LAW TO PROTECT NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 May 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, May 14: A Presidential Ordinance enacted late Tuesday night to amend the Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies (Elections) Order 1977 has lifted the ban on sitting members of the National and Provincial Assemblies from joining any unregistered political party provided their parties have applied for registration.

The Ordinance, obviously promulgated to protect the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister of Sindh, some members of the Sindh Assembly and the acting Secretary-General of the Pakistan Muslim League from the likely effect of the reference regarding the validity of their membership, has deleted clause 7 (a) of Article 10 of the Presidential Order No. 5 of 1977. The Order stated that "a person shall not be qualified to be elected or chosen as member of Parliament if he is a member of a political party which is not eligible under the Political Parties Act 1962 to participate in an election to a seat in a house of parliament or a provincial assembly or to nominate or put up a candidate to any such election."

With the deletion of this clause the sitting members of the Assemblies are now entitled to join any political party irrespective of the fact whether it was registered or unregistered.

The ordinance promulgated by the President while deleting sub-paragraph 7 a in paragraph (b) in clause 2 of article 10 of the House of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies (Election) Order 1977 p. (p.p) O. No 5 of 1977 has stated that notwithstanding any thing contained in the aforesaid Order or any other law, or any judgment of any court, no person shall be disqualified or deemed to have been disqualified on or after the thirtieth day of December 1985, from being a member of the Government or a provincial Assembly on the ground that such person is a member of a political party which has applied for registration under the Political Parties Act 1962 (III of 1962), whether before or after he becomes its member, and the application of which is not refused, such person dissociates himself from the party within 30 days of such refusal.

The new amendment would render the references sent to the CEC infructuous, according to the interpretation available in official quarters. Official circles assert that after the Ordinance issued by the President it was not necessary to amend sub-section 6 of clause 3b of the Political Parties Act 1962 as the relevant clause is only related to the political parties and has no bearing on individuals. The clause states that "a political party which has not been registered un-

der sub-section 3 or the registration of which has been cancelled under section 4 shall not be eligible to participate in an election to a seat in a house of parliament or a provincial assembly or to nominate or put up a candidate at any such election.

Under the changed situation the unregistered political parties will still be barred from taking part in elections but the members elected in their individual capacity would be free to join any such party after winning the elections.

Meanwhile legal and constitutional experts have expressed their deep shock over the enactment of the Ordinance which they said had been issued to protect some individuals. They referred to the judgement of the Supreme Court in the Farrand Ali case in which the Court had observed that no legislation which went in favour of party could be enacted. "It was a fit case to be filed in the court of law," said one constitutional expert. Any citizen of the country could question the spirit of the new legislation which he described as mala fide.

Mr. Rafiq Bajwa, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, commented that any legislation issued in one's favour was "the worst type of dictatorship. While bringing about the amendment the so-called banner-bearers of democracy have actually demolished its basic norms."

It is not all over, said another top lawyer, the Chief Election Commissioner has to examine the entire case and decide on the bona fides of the new amendment. The amendment, according to legal circles has been made in a Presidential Order which had the protection of the Constitution. Presidential Orders and ML Regulations protected in the Constitution could only be amended by a "competent authority" under the Constitution, and this authority could only be the National Assembly and not the President who has been given powers to promulgate ordinances only in a national emergency.

Following is the text of the ordinance:

An ordinance further to amend the Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies (Elections) Order, 1977.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies (Elections) Order 1977 101p.(pl) o. (p.p) no. 5 of 1977, for the purpose hereinafter appearing; and whereas the National Assembly is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action: now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (1) of Article 89 of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President

is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:

Short title and commence (1) This Ordinance may be called the Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies (Elections amendment) Ordinance, 1986 (2) Shall come into force at once. 2. Amendment of Article 10, p. (p.p) o.no. 5 of 1977: (1) In the Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies (Elections) Order, 1977 (p. (p.p) O. no 5 of 1977 in Article 10, in Clause (2), in paragraph (b), sub-paragraph (7a) shall be omitted and shall be deemed to have been omitted to the thirtieth day of December, 1985.

2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the aforesaid order or any other law, or any judgement of any court, no person shall be disqualified or be deemed to have been disqualified on or after the thirtieth day of December, 1985, from being a member of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or a Provincial Assembly on the ground that such person is a member of a political party which has applied for registration under the Political Parties Act, 1962 (iii of 1962), whether before or after he became its member, and the application of which is not refused or, if the application of the political party is refused, such person disassociates himself from the party within thirty days of such refusal.

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CSO: 4600/358

PAKISTAN

ORDINANCE CRITICIZED, 'DUPLICITY' ALLEGED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in-English 15 May 86 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, May 14: Malik Mohammad Qasim, Secretary General Pakistan Muslim League (Khairud Din group) has described the latest ordinance promulgated by the President as another manifestation of the collusion between the present rulers, be they from the army or civilians, in defending each other's interest. He said it again goes to prove that both stand as one against the aspirations of the people of Pakistan who want complete democracy and a just socio-economic order.

Giving his creation to the said Ordinance whereby the disqualification condition affecting assembly members joining an unregistered party before the introduction of the amended Political Parties Act had been removed, Malik Qasim said that he had repeatedly stressed that all those who were associated with the present system of government had common interests and were not separate from each other. He said it was General Ziaul Haq who nominated Mohammad Khan Junejo as Prime Minister and all the members in the parliament gave him a vote of confidence. It was also a fact that none of the members had voted against the controversial 8th Amendment

in the Constitution. Similarly the budget which had turned black money into white and 'Haram' into 'Halal' was unanimously passed by the house.

Now when a few of the members, he said, moved a reference for the disqualification of Prime Minister Junejo and one other and this was sent to the Chief Election Commissioner by the Speaker, the President in a prompt move has promulgated an ordinance to remove the said disqualification condition. In turn, he alleged, the President will continue to wear the uniform of the Chief of Army Staff and the members in the assemblies would be happy to have a further lease of their tenure in spite of the fact that the people of Pakistan had been demonstrating in the streets against the continuation of the present system of government.

Alleging duplicity in the government, Malik Qasim said it was also that General Zia accompanied Mr. Junejo to a meeting of the official party where Pir Pagara was forced to resign from the presidency of the Muslim League and Mr. Junejo installed in his place. It was the same evening he said that General Ziaul Haq while addressing

the Parliament, expressed his desire to have a non-party system. He reiterated this stand a couple of days ago and yesterday he was ahead with the promulgation of ordinance removing the possibility of disqualification of the Prime Minister as a result of holding the office of the head of the official party. While all these developments reflect the double standards adopted by the present rulers, at the same time it was evidence to show that they had common interests and stood as one against the people. Assailing the civilians in the government he said they were the people who were responsible for the imposition of Martial Law and its continuation in civilian garb.

These were the elements who are always found in the power chambers with every ruler.

Sounding a note of warning to those who still indulged in wishful thinking about the present rulers by making a distinction between them, the PML leader said that the recent action by the President should also serve as an eye-opener to all democratic forces which really want to bring in a democratic order.

/9317
CSO: 4600/358

PAKISTAN

PPP SECRETARY GENERAL TALKS ABOUT PARTY'S PLANS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 May 86 p 8

[Article by Tariq Butt]

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, May 16: Tikka Khan, Secretary General of PPP said in an interview that the 2-day Karachi meeting of the People's Party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) will focus on launching the second round by Miss Benazir Bhutto to force President Zia to quit.

When asked to differentiate between the two phases of the PPP's movement he said that the first round, starting on April 10 when Miss Benazir returned home from self-imposed exile, was remarkably smooth, peaceful and non-violent. The organising of processions, rallies and conventions would be a part of the second round which would also be peaceful and violence-free.

The PPP leader scoffed at President Zia for promulgating an Ordinance a couple of days ago, and said he had provided shelter to the Pakistan Muslim League, the creation of which he had once opposed. He said the survival of the President and the Parliament was co-related and the collapse of one would precipitate the fall of the other.

Tikka Khan did not like the performance of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi during the past few months, saying that he had become indifferent to the party's affairs and had disregarded discipline. He was non-cooperative and disobeyed his party's head. He said it was unfair on Mr. Jatoi's part not to have visited Gazi Khuda Bux on the death anniversary of the late

Premier Bhutto, not to have come to Lahore to receive Miss Benazir, and to have left Karachi before her arrival there. His attitude necessitated his ouster. The action against him was fully backed by a majority of the party workers, Tikka Khan claimed.

He, however, conceded that Mr. Jatoi had some standing in Sind. Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto and Miss Benazir always attached importance to him, but he did not respect them. Tikka Khan said Mr. Jatoi should not have minded if some party office-bearers in Sind were not to his liking. It was a trivial matter to dispute.

The PPP leader did not know that Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto had sent a messenger here to reconcile differences in the PPP's reorganisation in Sind. He had also no knowledge that she had ordered to stop further reorganisation of the party.

In response to a question, Tikka Khan said Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto had no programme as present to come to Pakistan, due to her declining health. He said the action against Mr. Jatoi was taken solely by Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Gen. Tikka, who accompanied his party chief during her "Caravan of Democracy" for over one month throughout the country, said he found that the masses loved the Bhutto family intensely. They care less for any other political organisation and have pinned their hopes on her to rid them of despotic rule. He said the reception she was accorded everywhere was delirious

and overwhelming and people travelled several miles to catch a glimpse of their leader.

Responding to another question, Tikka Khan categorically denied that the People's Party's current movement against the regime was funded by some foreign countries. There is no truth in such allegations and they are a part of the slur campaign by the regime against the popular political party. He said hundreds of hired buses in the processions escorting Miss Benazir were in fact financed by contributions made by the workers. However, he said mere funds were not sufficient to attract people to the public meetings.

Gen. Tikka denied the allegation levelled by Air Marshal (Retd.) Asghar Khan that the People's Party had conspired with the late Yahya Khan to break the country. He said the action taken in what was then East Pakistan, was ordered solely by the armed forces and the People's Party chief was not consulted. He said the Air Marshal did not enjoy mass support to counter the People's Party. The situation will be quite clear when we will face his party in the field, he said.

To yet another question, he said that no commandos or special security men were detailed by the government to protect Miss Benazir during her whirlwind tour. Party workers stood guard as they did not rely on government agencies. They did not allow policemen either in uniform or plain clothes to come near the party chief.

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26 June 1986

PAKISTAN

PPP SAID 'BEING GEARED UP' FOR NEXT PHASE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 May 86 pp 1, 8

[Article by Dastgir Bhatti]

[Text]

HYDERABAD, May 14: Congratulating the new elected districts, municipal, town and tehsil office-bearers of Sind PPP on the success of the Hala Convention, Miss Benazir Bhutto, acting Chairperson of the party, directed today that elections at the union council, city, ward and mohalla levels be conducted within the next two weeks so that the preparations for the second round of her peaceful mass movement could be completed by Eidul Fitr.

Addressing the concluding session of the PPP Sind Convention at Hala immediately after 'Schar' this morning, the PPP chief partly disclosed her future course of action by calling upon party men to recruit activists to form groups of 250-500 for each constituency of the provincial assembly. Elaborating, she said such activists will be named 'doves of democracy' to be divided into sub-groups of 10 each led by an active party worker of the respective area. These groups, Ms. Bhutto said, will be given different responsibilities in different phases so that peaceful political pressure can be built up throughout the country to force the regime to accept the people's demand for fresh polls by autumn.

Miss Bhutto urged upon them to form defence committees consisting of lawyers at provincial, divisional, district and city levels to meet the legal requirements of those workers who may be detained in future by the authorities. The PPP leader said

she was delighted to witness the discipline and faith demonstrated by the newly elected party workers whom, she claimed, comprised mainly those who were flogged, tortured and jailed during the last nine years of suppression. "Most of them bear scars of lashes on their backs and the rest are the relatives of the PPP martyrs", she added.

Miss Bhutto said by holding party elections in Sind a new tradition had been set to decentralise the party affairs to the lowest level so that the workers felt free in organisational as well as local matters which was cardinal to a party enjoying the support of the masses. Analysing the failure of the People's Party to cope with the PNA Movement in 1977 in spite of gallant party workers and massive support, Ms. Bhutto said the lack of an organisational structure and dependence on very few party 'stalwarts' was to blame for that. She said the past mistakes should not be repeated.

The PPP Chief emphasised the need of study groups and training system for the party workers to continue even after the party was in power. She also called upon the party office-bearers to continue their peaceful political campaign of mass contact by 'attending' 'iftar' parties throughout the month of Ramadan. "You will soon receive party literature that will provide you the guidelines in respect of

maintaining close contact with the people", she said.

Ms. Bhutto reminded those who thought that PPP's movement will subside during the days of fasting that 'we have been fasting throughout the last nine years'.

She paid rich tributes to the political workers passing another sacred month of Ramaan in their prison cells and said 'they have proved to be the revolutionary followers of a revolutionary leader-Bhutto Shaheed—who taught them a new way of life by defeating death'.

Miss Bhutto turned down a proposal made by the delegates to make her Life President but agreed to become Co-Chairman with Begum Bhutto.

The second session of the Hala convention began at 11 p.m. last night and concluded at 6 o'clock in the morning today. The speakers were Makhdoom Khaliquezaman, President Sind PPP, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, member CEC, Mir Huzar Khan Bijarani, member CEC, Qari Mohammad Bux Dhamrah, District PPP Chief of Nawabshah, Prof. N.D. Khan, Vice President, Sind, and several district office-bearers of Sind.

Almost all the speakers bitterly criticised the attitude of Mr. Ghulam

Mustafa Jatoi, former Chief of Sind PPP, and accused him of having conspired with the establishment to block the way of Miss Benazir Bhutto. One of the speakers claimed that Mr. Jatoi during his last visit to London had intentionally advised the acting Chai-person not to go to Pakistan because she would be eliminated. This, he said, was proof of Mr. Jatoi's abortive scheme to hijack the PPP and deprive it of the leadership of the late Bhutto's family.

Through a unanimously passed resolution, the delegates pledged to lay down their lives to save the party chief if the circumstances so required. Another resolution condemned the arrests and beating of PPP workers in different parts of Sind, particularly at Tando Mohammad Khan and Daberkki, where it alleged, Provincial Minister Mir Ejaz Talpur and the Adviser to the Prime Minister, Ghulam Mohammad Maher, had let loose a reign of terror with the help of the local administration and the police. The resolution accused them of having lost their nerve after Miss Bhutto's triumphant march through Sind.

A new slogan that was frequently chanted at the Convention said 'Pakistan ka Maslah Kiya, Benazir Jaldi Aa'.

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CSO: 4600/358

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY VIEWS PPP'S HALA CONVENTION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 May 86 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, May 18. Although called on a very short notice of barely 24 hours, the Hala Convention of Sind PPP attended by over four thousand newly elected office-bearers, proved to be a big success.

What prompted the leader of PPP Miss Benazir Bhutto to direct party leaders from Sind to convene an emergent convention could be any body's guess, but observers generally believe that the principal objectives of the hurriedly called convention could possibly prove to the interested quarters that Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's ouster from the highest provincial office did not cause any significant dent in the party in Sind. Secondly, the intention could be confidence among those party workers who had certain differences with the new provincial PPP chief, Makhdoom Khaleequzaman. They were reportedly provided a chance during the close-door session on the first day to freely express their grievances in the very presence of Mr. Khaleeq and then end their differences with him. Mr. Khaleeq reportedly gave a patient hearing to them thereby giving proof of his democratic behaviour and ultimately paving the way for his confirmation as the provincial chief of the party. It is said that all the office-bearers unanimously reposed their confidence in him.

Yet another aim of the convention according to observers was to ponder over different suggestions and formulate the strategy to be adopted during the next phase of the PPP's struggle for fresh

polls and finally to take another equally important decision that is to elect Miss Bhutto as the co-chairperson of the party.

There is no doubt that all these goals were achieved during the two-day long Hala conference with major achievement being the expression of confidence in the leadership of Makhdoom Khaleequzaman, hitherto under fire from within the party as well as from the disgruntled pro-Jatoi elements, who in spite of their boycott could not muster any significant political support among Sindhi masses. "The fact remains that these Johnnies whose number did not exceed thirty do not even enjoy the support of their own family members against Miss Benazir Bhutto," commented a local PPP leader.

Quoting an incident, Syed Pervais Ali, the senior vice-president of PPP Sind told the audience that when in power, late Bhutto once visited Larkana during the hot days of summer. While he was sitting inside "Almurtara" with Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, then a federal minister, the crowds of people started gathering outside his residence and chanted slogans to request the Prime Minister to listen to their grievances. As Mr. Bhutto rose from his seat to go out and see the people, Mr. Jatoi interrupted and advised him to stay inside because of the scorching heat outside. Infuriated by the advice, Mr. Bhutto bluntly retorted "this is the difference between you and me, Mr. Jatoi."

Mr. Jatoi's secret correspondence with Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Khar, was also as a proof of his [Jatoi's] device to deprive the party of the leadership of Miss Benazir. The disclosures although shocking, convinced pro-Jatoi elements that their ex-party chief was hand-in-glove with Maulana Karam Azmi, right from the day, General Zia imposed Martial Law after toppling the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's elected civilian government.

The more surprising was the participation by the delegates from the worst hit areas of MRD's 1983 movement, such as Lakhra and Chadio villages generally believed to be Mr. Jatoi's strongholds. The president of district Nawabshah, Qazi Mohammad Bux Dhamrahi, a PPP veteran jailed for about 6 times during the last nine years captivated the audience by his candid and blunt assessment of Mr. Jatoi's position in his own home district. He debunked the idea that Jatoi being a big feudal lord commanded

greater influence in Sind, arguing that Mr. Ayub Khoro, the iron man of Sind, Qazi Farhullah and the feudals like Ghulam Mohammad Waseem were consigned to trash can of history by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1970 elections. "Jatoi cannot claim to have bigger

political influence than Khoro Waseem or G. M. Syed", he asserted.

Miss Bhutto who entered the venue of convention exactly at the time when Dhamrahi was speaking, heard his assurance that the party workers of Nawabshah were powerful enough to cope with Mr. Jatoi. He claimed that Mr. Jatoi had long ago decided to quit the PPP after failing in his attempts to capture it, but could not announce his disassociation due to fear of the people.

With sunken eyes and swollen faces due to two sleepless nights, most of the journalists covering the Hala Convention, were perhaps overpowered by the sleep when Ms. Bhutto delivered her concluding address to the delegates. Most of them thus apparently missed an important disclosure by the PPP chief that the regime was busy destroying the evidence of massive rigging that was carried out during the "so-called Presidential referendum." She accused the authorities of trying to burn the Referendum record which lay in the custody of the election commission.

"They cannot hide their crimes by such flimsy tactics because when the time comes the tears of thousands of mothers and sisters shall stand witness not only to the fraudulent referendum but to all the measures of repression adopted during last nine years," she warned.

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CSO: 4600/361

PAKISTAN

BHUTTO TO CHAIR LABOR CONFERENCE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 May 86 p 8

[Text]

HYDERABAD, May 15: Miss Benazir Bhutto, the co-Chairman of the PPP will preside over a labour conference to be convened at Karachi in July next. This was disclosed by Makhdoom Khaliqurrahman, the President Sind PPP while addressing the participants of Hala conference on Wednesday morning. He said the labour organizations supporting PPP will be invited from all over the country to attend the proposed conference.

Makhdoom Khaliq informed the delegates that a central secretariat of the PPP will soon be established in Karachi. Expressing his satisfaction over the vibrant harmony in Sind, he said all living in Sind were Sindhis and his party believed in the equality, justice and well-being of every citizen of the province as well as the country.

Makhdoom Khaliq assured the office-bearers of his party that as the Chief of Sind PPP he will ensure that the workers, who had given tremendous sacrifices, occupied the party offices through elections and the party was cleansed of opportunists.

The recent party election in Sind, he claimed, manifested this fact. Mr. Khaliq said he knew that Miss Bhutto was the undisputed leader of the people of Pakistan and others, including himself, were no more than the workers of the party and he will prove himself a servant of the people.

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CSO: 4600/359

SOUTH AFRICA

PARTIAL LIST OF 14 JUNE DETAINEES GIVEN

Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English 15 Jun 86 p 1

[Text]

THE following are among those detained in the government's nationwide crackdown yesterday (Thursday).

In Pretoria the following were believed detained:

Arthur Mkhwanazi, a UDF member; Dr AB Nkomo, an executive member of the Atteridgeville-Saulville Residents' Organisation; Titus Mofolo (UDF); Thabo Masuku, Saulville-Atteridgeville Youth Organisation; Kame Daw and Kgoro Daw, both of ASU; Nathi Lekgoro, Mpho Lekgoro, Ronnie Mamoepe and Jackie Mase-mola, all of Sayo, and the Rev Lukas Mabusela.

In the Western Cape:

Elizabeth Erasmus, secretary general of Clowu; Noel Williams, vice-president of Cosatu Western Cape and chairman, Atlantis Residents' Association; Lesley Liddle, ecumenical officer Western Province Council of Churches; Rev Howard Mapua, Tandigwu organiser; Victor Steyn, UCT student and member of Students for a Young Azania; Leslie Maasdorp, SRC member at Western Cape University; Alfred Stuurman, Western Cape Civic Association in Gugulethu; Mike Evans, I.C.C.

In the Reef area:

Pireshaw Camay, Council of Unions of SA; Sister Bernard Neube, Krugersdorp Residents' Association; Joe Makgotlho; Lawrence Ntlokoko, KRO secretary; Ashwin Shah (TIC); Aziz Cachalia; Aubrey Mokoceni, Release Mandela Campaign; Bishop Mphahlele, Johannesburg West Anglican Bishop Suffragan; Frank Chikane; Adrian Bird, Mawu education officer; Chris Bonner, Tvl secretary CWIU; Ray Suttner (UDF); Peter Masala; Jack Phahlamohaka; Hans Alaletshwa; Philip Theophilus; Jill Wellbeloved (Cric); Gill de Vlieg; Vester Smith; Ms Mogase (Kagiso); Ronnie Mamoepe; David Makasi; Dr Ribiero; Martha Mashangu; Saths Cooper; Ishmael Mkhabela; Haroon Patel; Lindo Ngoboo; George Mgizi; Dominique Nzaca.

In Natal:

Jean Manning and Eric Applegryn both of United Committee of Concern; Sandy Joselyn and John Jeffreys (both Natal

University SRC); Al Chetty, NIC; Peter Kerchov; Fr Larry Korfman; Fr Theo Kniffel; Nasisa Ballim; Rachid Abed; Rowena Halim; AS Chetty. Natal Midlands UDF chairman; Nita Ravjee, Azapo member from Merebank; Peter Kerchoff and Gay Spiller, Maritzburg Church Agency; Fr Larry, parish priest at Howick; Oome Jhetami, president Natal Medical School SRC; Dr Theo Kniffel, lecturer at St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara; Dr Van Chetty and Dr C Motola, from the Natal Indian Congress; AS Chetty, chairman of the Natal Midlands Region of the United Democratic Front, and a member Joe Vadwa; Denis Dickson, from the National Education Union of SA; Yunus Karrim, a sociology lecturer on the Maritzburg campus; Bently Davids, Maritzburg Council of Churches.

In the Eastern Cape:

Port Elizabeth: UDF president Edgar Ngoyi, PE Women's Organisation president Ivy Gcina, Dennis Neer, Themba Duze, Jackson Mdungwe. In Uitenhage: Friday Frans, Vuyisile Thole, and Lizo Mthana.

24 activists in Duncan Village, five in Middelburg, 13 in Dordrecht.

ECC members:

Maritzburg chairman Jacqui Boule detained. In Johannesburg, homes of ECC spokesman David Shandler and organiser Claire Verbeek raided. Nobody taken as no-one there. ECC offices in Khotso House raided - videos and poster taken.

Krugersdorp, Potch and Stilfontein:

Rev I P Masupha, Rev JM Moloubi, Rev SS Kodisang, Father Gerald van den Somple, Father M. Motliri; taximen S Motedi, J Marumule, P Konyana, J Tshabangu, and schoolteacher S Majowa.

In Kuthwanong near Odendaalsrus:

Patrick Machidi, Kenneth Kume, Tumahe Phondoyi, Thabo Hlabahlaba, Sello Dibebe, Soko Morothodi, Pule Mokgobo, Mokgadi Ntatenyana, Molatsa Mokgobo, Abraham Moshodi, Daddy Take, Thabo Pule, Buti Mbale, Mputoke Mhlongo and two others, Seiso and Setopo (no surnames given) - all members of the Kuthwanong Students' Congress. NUM organisers in the Free State are also believed to have been detained.

● This list is not complete

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CSO: 3400/190

SOUTH AFRICA

KWANDEBELE'S TROUBLED PATH TO INDEPENDENCE EXPLORED

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 24 Jun 86 p 13

[Article by Mckeed Kotlolo]

[Text]

Unlike the other four independent states, the birth of an independent kwaNdebele has been fraught with violence, dissent and unrest.

Since the homeland conception, resistance to the ideals of the late Dr H F Verwoerd have intensified. This is manifested in violence between the pro- and anti-independence factions in the tiny Ndebele homeland, about an hour's drive north of Pretoria.

The Transkei opted for independence in 1976 and Bophuthatswana the following year — at a time when effective internal political opposition to independence was still in its infancy.

Since then, groups opposing the severing of formal control from South Africa have grown and become more vociferous.

Venda's independence pangs were slight and the territory, under the leadership of President Patrick Mphahlele, started ruling itself in 1979. Since then continued reports of internal dissent and the use of extensive security powers have appeared.

When Ciskei chose self-rule in 1981, the Sebe brothers faced extensive opposition from their subjects, particularly those under the banners of the Allied Workers' Union (Saawu) and other Eastern Cape anti-apartheid organisations.

They decided to press ahead with the independence plans and resistance continued to grow. After independence the Ciskei Government continued to face opposition, culminating in the Mdantsane bus boycotts. The boycotts were spearheaded by Saawu, which is today banned from operating in the territory.

The Sebes have made use of powers such as detention without trial to curb continued dissent.

Now the tiny, impoverished and troubled soon-to-be independent homeland of kwaNdebele — which is far from being developed — is walking a thorny path towards independence. More than 50 lives have been lost in clashes since May 8.

Most villagers in kwaNdebele rose against the acceptance of independence by their Legislative Assembly "without the consent" of the citizens.

The independence issue has also caused clashes between the members of the Assembly and the traditional leadership, which is headed by Paramount Chief Maboko Mahlangu. The Paramount Chief sided with his subjects against the acceptance of independence.

They also demanded the disbanding of the homeland's vigilante group, Mbokotho, which is alleged to be used as a watchdog by the authorities against those opposed to independence.

Despite all the opposition from villagers, the authorities decided to go ahead with their plans for independence. The date has been set and about half the agreements necessary for the independence have been signed by the homeland's authorities and the South African Government.

Meanwhile, the homeland is still faced with another problem — the incorporation of Moutse district into kwaNdebele. A court ruling regarding the incorporation of this area, which is occupied mainly by Northern Sothos, is still pending.

Opposition Is 'Surprising'

The extension of state of emergency regulations to self-governing states will not influence the proposed independence of kwaNdebele.

This has been confirmed by the homeland's Commissioner-General, Mr G van der Merwe.

Independence has been set for December 11.

Mr van der Merwe said he could not understand why villagers were suddenly opposed to independence — "because they were consulted and they agreed to the plans".

Consultations took place more than two years ago.

Asked if arrangements for independence had been finalised, he said:

"They are not 100 percent complete. We are only half way with the agreements which have to be signed by the homeland's authorities and the South African Government."

He added that agreements were being worked on at present.

"In all, there are about 50 agreements to be signed before the independence can be granted," he said.

"At the moment we are still busy with some of them."

He also stressed that there was still "more action" to be taken before December.

Mr van der Merwe mentioned that the homeland's Assembly had the power to go ahead with independence on the set date, postpone it to another date, or call it off.

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CSO: 3400/194

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

POOR BLACK RESPONSE TO NEW ID--The Department of Home Affairs aims to have issued all 14-million eligible blacks with new identity documents before the end of the year, Home Affairs Director-General Gerrie van Zyl said yesterday. Up to the end of last week, 120,000 applications from blacks--0.8% of the total to be issued in the next five or six months--had been received and were being processed. Van Zyl said the inflow of applications so far had been disappointing--mainly because of uncertainty about the content of the Identification Bill, including the fingerprinting issue. The department's advertising campaign, aimed at speeding up the flow of applications, had started. The standing committee's report on fingerprinting whites, coloureds and Asians had recommended a period of five years to complete the task. Details of how this was to be done were still being worked on. --The Progressive Federal Party was opposed, in principle, to the taking of fingerprints but would not oppose the Identification Bill on those grounds, PFP MP Peter Soal said yesterday. National People's Party MP Boetie Abramjee said he saw nothing wrong with having fingerprints taken "strictly for identification purposes". A Labour Party spokesman said the LP was "quite happy" with the Identification Bill, especially as everyone was now going to be treated in the same way. [Text] [By Gerald Keilly] [Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 18 Jun 86 p 2] /9274

SHORTAGES HIT BLACKS--The development of black education was being prejudiced by an acute shortage of black teachers and a lack of training facilities, Transvaal Teachers' Association (TTA) secretary Jack Ballard said yesterday. That situation contrasted with a big white-teacher surplus and hundreds of vacancies at white education colleges. Ballard said the TTA attitude favouring the use of white teachers in black schools had been reinforced by a recent report from a working committee. "We support the free movement of teachers between the two responsible departments of education." [Text] [Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 18 Jun 86 p 2] /9274

TRANSVAAL SHOPS DESERTED--Black consumers have staged an almost 100% boycott of white businesses in the Northern Transvaal, despite the distribution of counter-boycott pamphlets. A local Consumer Boycott Committee spokesman said Marble Hall, Groblersdal, Potgietersrus, Burgersfort and Pietersburg were deserted, and the boycott was "pcking up" in Tzaneen and Phalaborwa. The boycott was called at the funeral of United Democratic Front Northern Transvaal president Peter Nchabeleng, who died in detention two months ago. Residents demanded the withdrawal of troops from the townships, the resignation of Lebowa MPs and the release of all political leaders. The spokesman said the committee welcomed the resignation of "Mr Matlaia of June Furse from the bogus Lebowa

bantustan parliament". He condemned the distribution of counter-boycott pamphlets by the authorities and "the so-called Far North Consumer Committee". "This is a sign that the consumer boycott is hitting the allies of apartheid hard," he said. He warned businessmen in local villages and townships to "stop taking advantage of the boycott by exploiting consumers". He said the boycott would be reviewed next month. "Conditions will determine whether it's extended or not." [Text] [Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English 15 Jun 86 p 2] /9274

CSO: 3400/190

SOUTH AFRICA

ISRAEL SAID SHIFTING STANCE, SEEKING BETTER BLACK RELATIONS

Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 7 Jun 86 p 2

[Text]

As part of its policy of improving relations with black African countries Israel is attempting to harden its attitude to South Africa significantly. In the middle of May the new director of the Israeli foreign ministry's southern Africa and Oceania department, Pinhas Gonen, visited South Africa to meet black anti-apartheid leaders whose names have not been revealed. Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi was certainly among them.

Israel's Minister without portfolio, Moshe Arens, was also due to go to South Africa this week, to meet members of the Pretoria government this time, but it was learned in Jerusalem on June 1 that the cabinet had authorised him to talk to the leaders of the country's Jewish community only.

During the United Nations special session on Africa the Israeli delegation went out of their way to woo the African countries, and in a press conference the head of the Israeli foreign ministry, David Kimche, made a point of denying that there were any special links or active nuclear and military co-operation between Israel and South Africa.

Mr Kimche also maintained that Israel's trade relations with South Africa were much less important than those with Arab states. Defending the links Israel did have, he stressed that the large Jewish community in South Africa risked reprisals against it if they were to be broken off.

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CSO: 3400/191

SOUTH AFRICA

LONG-, SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF SANCTIONS EXPLORED

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 18 Jun 86 p 6

[Commentary by Gerald Prosalendis]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT is now pinning its hopes on the belief that the state of emergency will correct a misperception overseas that SA is on the verge of a revolution or civil war.

If that perception can be changed, and a semblance of normality restored to the country, the reform process will be able to continue and relations with SA's trading partners could improve, say government sources.

It would be ironic indeed if the emergency rather than isolating the country paved the way for accelerated reform and thus staved off sanctions in the long run.

Obviously, this is a gamble with long odds. But, says one government source: "We cannot allow threats of sanctions to prevent us running the country in a normal manner."

Government strategy has apparently been based on the assumption that any sanctions imposed in retaliation for the latest clamp-down will not be disastrous.

"We have to correct the perception that SA is at the point of revolution. At the moment it is the political situation that is dominating foreign bankers and investors' thinking," says Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock.

If the slide towards anarchy in past months is not reversed and reform continued, the country will merely have to continue financing

an outflow of capital to Western industrialised countries.

Misperception, then, is rapidly becoming the catchphrase. Initial reaction to the emergency from Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan does suggest that the authorities may be at least half right.

Effective sanctions are unlikely to be imposed at present, though the pressure on both for more stringent measures will only increase in coming months.

In that sense, the next few months could be crucial. Particularly important is that the authorities make good their promise that, once the country is stable, reform will continue.

But what is disturbing is the do-or-die attitude expressed in certain circles and the feeling that if it came to the worst SA would survive intact a total embargo on its imports and exports.

SA's strength, say critics of this view, is its trading relations with the world. Strong two-way trade is a good bargaining chip, simply because it means bankers, investors and foreign governments have a large stake in the country.

It is almost a truism to say that the more open an economy the larger a country's influence on others. Granted, small trading partners can easily cut and run, but those with a large trade

account with SA will be extremely wary of cutting ties once and for all.

"That is why the US and the UK are taking their present line and why the Japanese have indicated they will follow their stance," says a government source. "It would appear that in the end it is only money that matters."

In the short-term, sanctions would be manageable, but in the longer-term they would reduce SA's competitiveness, increase inflationary pressures, foment labour unrest and demands and have other spin-offs that would be entirely unpredictable.

Sanctions, many believe, would result in a tightly-controlled economy. All financial markets would be strictly regulated, largely unsuccessfully.

On the export side, however, it would prove difficult — if not impossible — to stop SA's mineral exports from finding ways through the sanctions net.

Roughly three-quarters of SA's exports look reasonably secure, even under the most stringent conditions short of a naval blockade.

Gold exports, which make up roughly R11.5bn of SA's total exports a year and represent more than half of the world's total gold production, would be difficult to curtail at all, let alone seal off entirely.

In fact, efforts to prevent SA exporting gold could backfire and

push the price of the metal higher on world markets.

Platinum and uranium together make up between R1,5bn and R2bn of SA's export earnings a year. At present, SA supplies more than 65% of the world's platinum. Projections put the loss of export earnings under sanctions of these minerals at R200m.

Because of SA's unique position in controlling the world diamond market through the Central Selling Organisation — it sells more than 80% of the world's gemstones — diamond exports, which account for roughly R1,3bn in export earnings a year, would be virtually impossible to sanction.

SA is the world's predominant supplier of ferrochrome production, with an export value of about R500m a year. It is unlikely that these minerals, on which many key Western industries are almost totally dependent, could be prevented from reaching the West.

Wool exports (R550m) and non-electrical machinery would be unlikely to suffer significantly.

Coal exports, however, would be hard hit, mainly because the international market is highly competitive and other world suppliers would stand to benefit from sanctions against this country. A low oil price will certainly not help matters either.

Iron exports are also vulnerable, because of a world glut of pig iron and strong competition from Brazil and Australia. The demand for primary steel, however, would prevent any significant loss of export earnings.

SA's exports of fruit (R500m) would fall foul of sanctions, as would raw sugar.

In total, SA's export earnings could possibly drop by up to 15% — or roughly R4bn — under sanctions and could result in a 4% to 5% drop in GDP.

On the import side, there are certain categories that would be difficult to substitute with local production. Many of these, however, are not critical to SA's econom-

ic survival, such as gums and resins, mineral oils and waxes, and cosmetics.

But problems would occur in supplies of machinery, railway equipment, vehicles and vehicle parts and transport equipment.

But a drop in imports, possibly aided by further import control measures, would produce a surplus on the current account of the balance of payments.

Although it is possible for SA to substitute many imported goods with local production, there are problems inherent in this course. Many products produced locally will be of inferior quality and higher priced than overseas alternatives.

Although the increasing role played by barter and counter-trade could provide SA with a convenient means of evading the sanctions net, it is inherently inefficient and means SA goods will not be readily tradeable.

"Nonetheless, there is no doubt barter is playing an increasingly important role, mainly in African countries and Eastern Europe, because of shortage of foreign exchange," says one official.

In the short-term, SA could get by, but in the long-term no one is an island. The SA economy would slowly wind down and the present inflationary trend would be entrenched further.

Government would be forced into placing orders with private firms to keep them afloat. Attempts to control the economy and inflation would result in disintermediation into grey or black markets. Standards of living would drop.

Import controls would become increasingly necessary to maintain a balance of payments surplus to repay foreign debt.

But SA cannot indefinitely continue to show a current account surplus. In the long-term this would severely stunt SA's ability to grow and create jobs for a rapidly expanding population.

Repaying debt does have its obvious advantages. For example, it reduces SA's interest payments and — political considerations

aside — raises SA's credit rating. But it is not sustainable.

Despite suggestions from certain quarters, it would be difficult for SA to turn its back on the world and renege on foreign debt commitments. There have recently been suggestions that this would be a logical retaliation by SA if sanctions were imposed.

Before this country treads down that path it would be worthwhile reflecting that the terms of the present debt agreement are extremely favourable to SA.

"Recinding on this agreement would be asking for trouble. SA's overseas assets would be attached, possibly including the foreign exchange holdings of the Reserve Bank, and the payment mechanism for SA's exports and imports would be clogged," says one source.

This would, in fact, mean open economic warfare and would degenerate into a tit-for-tat exchange that would further damage the country and shake the international banking system to its roots.

So far, it appears the emergency will have little effect on the meeting between SA's foreign creditor banks and the monetary authorities in September this year.

"The September review is mainly technical and economic. The renegotiation of the present understanding only comes up in the second quarter of next year. We will not be changing the present arrangements, and I saw no indication overseas of a change in attitude," says De Kock.

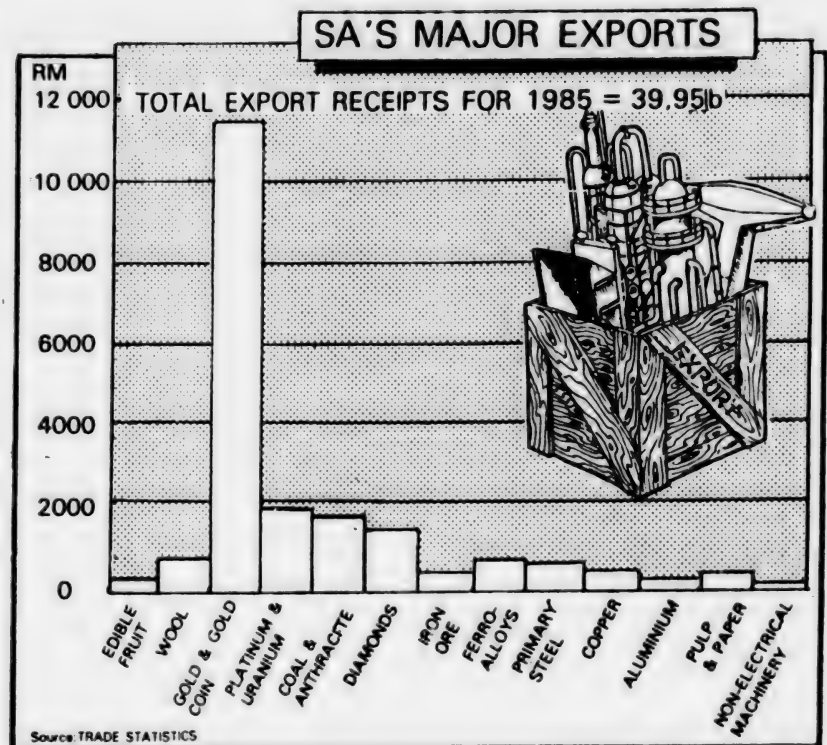
Ultimately, the effects of sanctions on the entire sub-Saharan Africa region will be devastating. Any retaliation by SA against the Frontline states, which would be more than likely should sanctions be imposed, would destroy their fragile economies.

"If these countries are party to sanctions they should not be foolish enough to expect the West to airlift supplies to them," says a source.

An economic adviser to at least one Frontline state is believed to have expressed the hope that Thatcher will be able to stave off sanctions.

Although attempts to detail the effects of sanctions on this country are riddled with unknowns, one thing is certain — selective sanctions are having very little effect on the country.

This is why it would be foolhardy for SA to make the first move by, for example, resorting to import controls. "This would precipitate retaliatory action," says one source. "While Reagan and Thatcher are trying to ward off sanctions, we should sit tight."



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SOUTH AFRICA

DRAFT LEGISLATION TO GIVE BTI GREATER POWERS

New Bill

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 19 Jun 86 pp 1, 2

[Article by Chris Cairncross and David Furlonger]

[Text]

THE Board of Trade and Industries (BTI) is to be given greater powers.

Draft legislation tabled in Parliament yesterday will free the Board to undertake its own investigations and activities in addition to requests from the Minister.

The Board of Trade and Industry Bill will also enable the BTI to make greater use of private sector expertise through the creation of part-time Board members.

The legislation, which Board chairman Lawrence McCrystal expects to become law later this year, is the result of recommendations by the Van der Horst Committee into the BTI.

The Bill is intended to enable the BTI to better promote economic development in SA and the common customs union area.

Its functions will include advising the

Minister on development of resources, advising on customs and excise duties and promoting competitive ability in industry.

McCrystal said yesterday the legislation would have two main effects — freeing the BTI to initiate its own activities and investigations, and allowing it to make fuller use of the private sector.

"It will give the Board the right to do investigations at its own initiative instead of on the instruction of the Minister," he said.

"That is a far-reaching change that further highlights the independence of the Board."

Welcoming the addition of part-time Board members, he said: "It will enable us to attract people who can't give all their time, particularly those from the private sector."

Chairman's Comments

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 23 Jun 86 p 6

[Article by David Furlonger]

[Text]

THE DECISION to broaden the powers and composition of the Board of Trade and Industries (BTI) gives sharp new teeth to gov-

ernment's main industrial advisory body.

The Board of Trade and Industry Bill, tabled in Parliament last

Wednesday, is expected to pass into law later this year. The result of recommendations by the Van der Horst Committee, it will have two major effects:

□ The BTI will be freed to undertake its own investigations and activities instead of acting only at the request of the Minister of Trade and Industries. However, the Minister can still refer matters to the board.

□ Through the creation of part-time board members, the BTI will be able to draw on the expertise of the private sector by co-opting people unable to devote all their time to the board's activities.

While the BTI has played an important role in advising government it has been restricted by the limited powers granted to it under legislation passed in 1944.

According to chairman Lawrence McCrystal, the new Bill removes many of those restrictions.

"It will give the BTI the right to do investigations on its own initiative. That is a far-reaching change and a very desirable one. Now we have a truly independent body."

He says the Bill will give the BTI the right to advise the Minister on a wide variety of topics. These include resource development; promotion of competition; imports and exports; preference to SA producers in buying by the state; technology production; marketing; international trade; and financial assistance.

McCrystal also welcomes the

potential for using private sector expertise. While there has been no bar on businessmen joining the board — McCrystal himself is a private sector product — the insistence on full-time members has scared off many potential advisers.

"There is a need for people with understanding of the private sector to become involved in policy-making."

By creating part-time members — and the State President can create as many as he sees fit — a far greater sector of business and industry can be brought into the policy-making process.

McCrystal, who succeeded Douglas de Beer as chairman last month, has experience on both sides of the fence. A former director of Finansbank and ex-chairman of the Kwandebele Development Corporation, he remains a director of the Natal Building Society and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

Expansion

McCrystal says his first priority as chairman is to "get the new set-up under way". This includes the inevitable expansion of the BTI's staff and a shift to larger Pretoria headquarters.

He is also determined to speed up the board's monitoring of imports. "We want to be know within a week what is coming into the country instead of the six to eight weeks it is taking us now. It's no

good learning two months later that there is disruptive import competition. We must be able to take steps quickly."

On the same theme, he wants the board to develop its capacity to monitor and revise import tariffs more frequently. "We must also expand our economic studies and other operations so we can handle major projects more expeditiously."

While worried by the long-term effects on trade and industry of fluctuating exchange and interest rates, McCrystal is convinced SA's industrial base remains sound.

In particular, he believes it has little to fear from the threat of international sanctions. Pointing to the ability of Rhodesia to create its own industries in the absence of overseas trade, he says: "I think SA has a greater capacity than Rhodesia to produce its own industrial needs in the case of total sanctions."

"Look at computers, for instance. We have the capacity to produce 75% of the components for personal computers. That has been developed very quickly."

"There are capabilities in other areas as well, like chemicals and machinery. The board was asked some time ago to investigate the electronics industry."

"Obviously, there are limits in these areas because of the size of the market. But an idea of what can be achieved can be seen by looking at the armaments industry. The engineering capability of this country is very sophisticated."

24 July 1986

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

TOURIST CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING--The Tourism Board's "Come To South Africa" campaign is in full swing. Within nine days of the June 1 launch, the names of 100,000 overseas friends and relatives of people in SA had been received, the board said yesterday. The board has added 50 airline tickets to the 100 available in the campaign. People were phoning in from far and wide to inquire about the campaign. Chairman Danie Hough said he trusted public support would lead to the collection of 500,000 names and addresses of friends and relatives overseas. The board has four operators, each working 13 hours a day, to feed all the names and addresses into a computer. [Text] [By Suan Van Zyl] [Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 18 Jun 86 p 2] /9274

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SOUTH AFRICA

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY SAID CRITICALLY LOW

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 23 Jun 86 pp 1, 2

[Article by David Furlonger]

[Text]

MAJOR sectors of the manufacturing industry are working at less than one-third of full potential.

While most figures show overall capacity utilisation of more than 80%, they mask a picture in which billions of rands are going to waste in under-used — and unused — machinery and technology.

Published figures relate to capacity assessed on current production. If market difficulties force an industry to cut back from two shifts a day to one, its assessed production capacity is also halved to take account of single-shift capacity.

To talk of 80% utilisation in such industries, therefore, is to talk of 80% of 50% of true capacity. And in those industries and corporations that have "mothballed" unused machinery and production lines, that means 80% of 50% of reduced capacity.

All this is without taking into account four-day weeks and that most modern manufacturing equipment is capable of round-the-clock, three-shift operation. At the end of the day, therefore, where an industry is reduced to single shifts, such equipment is being used at considerably less than one-third of its full potential.

Stellenbosch University's Bureau for Economic Research (BER), in its recent manufacturing survey, estimated industrial production capacity utilisation in the last quarter of 1985 to be 84,3%, compared to 85,7% in the corresponding 1984 quarter.

BER researchers say figures for the first and second quarters this year are expected to show a slight improvement on the corresponding 1985 quarters.

However, they and Federated Chamber of Industries (FCI) officials said all these figures were based on reduced capacity expectations caused by working cutbacks.

They said: "Some industries could more than double their capacity potential simply by returning to normal working conditions."

Certain industrialists, while conceding that official production figures hide a much gloomier picture, dislike the notion that they are operating at less than one-third of potential — pointing to the difference between full potential and normal working patterns.

Volkswagen MD and National Association of Automobile Manufacturers' (Naamsa) president Peter Searle says the motor industry is operating at about 50% of capacity. Working on a single-shift basis, it is expected to produce 14 000 cars this year out of the 28 000 it could produce on its normal two-shift basis.

Naamsa director Nico Vermeulen says: "When we measure production capacity, it is related to the normal operating hours of that company. The furthest we've been is a double shift."

Steel and Engineering Industries Federation (Seifsa) sources say some heavy engineering sectors are operating at only 45% of capacity. This figure, too, is based on comparison with a double-shift system.

With little sign of markets picking up, and fluctuating exchange rates and political pressures making it increasingly difficult for manufacturers to find export markets, there is general agreement that low production rates are here for a long time to come — with all the unemployment and wasted investment it implies.

Some observers say it is the sanctions threat that, ironically, offers the most immediate prospect of recovery. Cut off from foreign products markets by trade sanctions and disinvestment, there is no shortage of spare SA manufacturing capacity to take up the slack.

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